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Evaluation of Proposals to Revise DCF National Programmes for 2016 (STECF-16-01)

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Abstract

The EWG 15-15 was held in Hamburg, Germany, from 23 to 27 November 2015 to evaluate National Programmes (NP) for 2016 submitted by Member States (MS) under the Data Collection Framework (DCF), to revise procedures and guidance for the submission of DCF Annual Reports (AR) and for the evaluation of AR and Data Transmission (DT) by MS, and to provide expertise for the preparation of the EU Multi-annual Programme (EU MAP) for Data Collection under a revised DCF.

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Evaluation of Proposals to Revise DCF National Programmes for 2016 (STECF 16-01)

**THIS REPORT WAS REVIEWED BY THE STECF BY WRITTEN PROCEDURE IN
JANUARY 2016**

Background

Data collection currently occurs under the Data Collection Framework (DCF) and the multi-annual Union programme (EU MAP) for data collection established thereunder. Member States establish DCF National Programmes (NPs) in accordance with provisions of the EU MAP (Article 4 of Council Regulation 199/2008). These NPs are set for three years (currently 2014-2016) and contain the Member States' obligations to collect and provide data relevant to their region/fisheries/sectors pursuant to the EU MAP. NPs are analysed by the STECF (independent experts) and are adopted by the Commission through a Commission Decision (Article 6 of Reg. 199/2008). NPs can be modified if requested by a Member State and after evaluation of the proposed changes by the STECF. The EWG 15-15 was requested to review all NPs for 2016 submitted by 31 October 2015 (Croatia, Estonia, Ireland, Slovenia and Spain) to determine whether a re-adoption of the 2014-2016 NPs is required, based on the overarching criteria of conformity and scientific relevance.

Under Article 7 of the DCF Regulation, Member States are required to report annually on the implementation of their National Programme in their Annual Reports (AR). The Commission assesses the implementation of the National Programmes on the basis of an evaluation by the STECF. The current AR guidelines and standard tables were prepared in February 2015, based on STECF advice in 2014. There is potential to simplify the AR preparation and review process, to evaluate MS data transmission (DT) failures more efficiently and to link the AR and DT. On the basis of experience in the latest STECF EWG on AR/DT review (EWG 15-10, June 2015) and ad hoc contract work, the EWG 15-15 was requested to:

- a) review the guidance for submission of ARs (guidelines and table templates), guidelines for AR evaluation and the evaluation form;
- b) provide suggestions for improvements for end-user feedback and tools for DT assessment;
- c) provide suggestions for linking ARs and DT failures.

Following the agreement on the Basic Regulation on the Common Fisheries Policy (Reg. 1380/2013), which includes Article 25 laying out the key principles for Member States to collect biological, technical, environmental and socio-economic data, the Commission has prepared a proposal for a revision of the DCF, submitted in June 2015. This will be followed by a Commission proposal for a revision of the EU MAP. Discussions on the revision of the EU MAP are ongoing and the key issues that need to be addressed have been identified and discussed to various extents in STECF expert working groups and other relevant fora. The EWG 15-15 was requested to critically assess changes proposed by the Commission by types of variables, to review the EU MAP appendices and to address outstanding questions for which no general agreement has been reached in the past. The EWG 15-15 was provided with documents produced during consultation with involved parties.

Request to the STECF

STECF is requested to review the report of the STECF EWG 15-15 meeting (Hamburg, Germany, 23-27 November 2015), evaluate the findings and make any appropriate comments and recommendations.

Observations of the STECF

STECF observes that the EWG 15-15 has fully addressed their Terms of Reference.

The revisions to the National Programmes (NPs) 2016 of Croatia, Estonia, Ireland, Slovenia and Spain were found to be mostly minor. STECF considers that for Croatia and Ireland, all NP changes are acceptable. For the other three MS, STECF suggests that clarification on proposed changes in several NP modules should be provided by the MS to the European Commission. STECF observes that the Spanish NP was submitted in Spanish and could not be fully evaluated by the EWG.

STECF observes that the EWG 15-15 revised the guidelines and standard table templates for Annual Reports, draft guidelines for pre-screening and evaluation of AR and Data Transmission by MS and the Annual Report evaluation form. STECF supports the EWG suggestions for simplifications and clarifications, as well as proposed amendments which will improve overall consistency in the guidelines and templates. STECF notes that based on the EWG revisions and the follow-up by ad-hoc contract work, the guidelines and templates are scheduled to be finished by the end of January 2016 for dissemination to MS as guidance for the submission of ARs 2015.

STECF observes that the EWG 15-15 discussed possible solutions for improving end-user feedback on MS data transmission and STECF supports the following EWG considerations:

- When classifying a data transmission issue regarding timeliness of the data provisions, one additional category should be created which classifies the severity of the issue (“Impact on the WG performance”). This is intended to identify failings where the late submission of data had impacted the work of the data end-user.
- Each data transmission exercise should only focus on the data that had been newly provided (except in cases of revisions of a whole time series).
- A template and basic instructions will be made available to the end-users to support the upload of the end-user feedback to the IT platform hosted by JRC. All end-users will be asked to use the template and take the instructions into consideration.

STECF further observes that, based on two reports by ad hoc experts, the EWG 15-15 considered the issue of how improved linkage between Annual Reports and data transmission could be achieved. These reports pointed to modules in the Annual Reports that could be flagged to the evaluators via an automated link between AR and data transmission to the evaluators, as potential sources of future data transmission failures. STECF considers these suggestions as providing a short-term or ad hoc solution. However, STECF considers that a more appropriate medium to longer term solution should incorporate the data delivered to the Regional Databases (RDBs) and other databases storing data collected under the DCF. STECF acknowledges that the EWG presented an updated future scenario for information flow between IT systems in relation to Annual Reports, DT and National Work Plans, based on the work of the EWG 14-17. In addition, a new reporting format for data transmission in the Annual Report (Table VI.1) has been proposed by the EWG.

STECF notes that the European Commission provided the EWG 15-15 with a series of background documents on various issues with regard to the revision of the EU MAP. One of these documents contained proposals for elements to be included in the EU MAP and also contained specific questions to be addressed by EWG 15-15 regarding several aspects of the legal requirements under the current proposal for a revised DCF Regulation. STECF notes that some of these questions had been addressed by STECF previously. Furthermore, some of the Commission proposals did not take STECF advice into consideration or contradicted previous STECF advice. In addition, some of the background documents provided to the EWG by the EC were outdated and did not take all relevant reports and advice into account. STECF, however, welcomes the constructive approach of the EWG 15-15 to point to the relevant information and previous STECF advice.

STECF supports the suggestion of the EWG 15-15 that detailed appendices should not be included in the new EU MAP, but rather the EU MAP should lay down and specify principles and be considered as the basic binding instrument for MS to carry out fisheries data collection. In the view of STECF, detailed lists, definitions, additional variables and specification of methodologies (including sampling intensity and frequency) to apply shall be included in a “Guidance Document” accompanying the EU MAP. These lists should be compiled by the Regional Co-ordination Groups (RCGs) and PGECON (or successor) in cooperation with the main data end-users and approved by STECF.

STECF observes that the EWG 15-15 was requested to review the EU MAP appendices and to provide proposals for changes in order to achieve the objectives of the DCF revision. In most cases, the EWG used previous STECF advice for proposing changes. STECF acknowledges the EWG proposals and explanations for changes to the EU MAP appendices, in order to inform a Commission proposal for the EU MAP.

STECF considers that the social indicators identified by EWG 15-15 should be included in the EU MAP and that these should be supported by explanations on each indicator in the guidance document. STECF considers that MS should be encouraged to initially adopt pilot projects to determine how the social indicators should be collected and derived.

STECF observes that the proposal of the EWG to incorporate income generated through interest payments into the “financial results” indicator is questionable and should not be considered for inclusion in the EU MAP. National Data collection is undertaken at a vessel rather than a company level and it is therefore not possible to assign any interest income to an individual vessel if it belongs to a company operating more than one fishing vessel or other enterprises.

STECF observes that it is not possible to directly compare fuel subsidies with tax exemptions on fuel as the comparison can be misleading. In the case of tax exemptions, the company does not receive any direct payment as a rebate. However, it could be interpreted as received payment as under current reporting requirements. If needed, tax exemptions can already be derived from the fuel costs, without having to include a new variable in the EU MAP.

Conclusions and recommendations of the STECF

STECF concludes that the EWG 15-15 fully addressed all Terms of Reference. STECF endorses the findings and suggestions presented in the EWG 15-15 report and advises the following:

1. The submitted revisions of the DCF National Programmes 2016 of Estonia, Slovenia and Spain require further dialogue between the European Commission and the concerned MS with regard to clarifications on some of the amended modules, as detailed in the EWG 15-15 report.
2. The guidance for the submission of Annual Reports (AR, guidelines and standard table templates), as well as the guidelines for AR evaluation and the evaluation form, updated by the EWG 15-15, should be finished by the end of January 2016 to be submitted to MS well before the AR submission deadline (31 May 2016).
3. The improvements of end-user feedback on data transmission, as suggested by the EWG 15-15, should be implemented as soon as possible and communicated to the end-users.
4. The suggestions of the EWG 15-15 for a better link between Annual Reports and Data Transmission should be seen as a pragmatic short-term fix. A more robust solution, involving databases and online reporting tools, is required to make significant progress in simplifying and improving the efficiency of the current system which is time consuming and error prone.
5. STECF considers that the European Commission has now been provided by the EWG 15-15 (and the previous EWGs on DCF/EU MAP revision) with answers to the last remaining questions in order to put the EC into a position to formulate an EU MAP proposal. The availability of a revised EU MAP in spring 2016 is crucial for the preparatory work of MS in relation to their national Work Plans for Data Collection for 2017 and beyond.

REPORT TO THE STECF

**EXPERT WORKING GROUP ON
Evaluation of Proposals to Revise
DCF National Programmes for 2016
(EWG 15-15)**

Hamburg, Germany, 23-27 November 2015

This report does not necessarily reflect the view of the STECF and the European Commission and in no way anticipates the Commission's future policy in this area

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The EWG 15-15 was held in Hamburg, Germany, from 23 to 27 November 2015 to evaluate National Programmes (NP) for 2016 submitted by Member States (MS) under the Data Collection Framework (DCF), to revise procedures and guidance for the submission of DCF Annual Reports (AR) and for the evaluation of AR and Data Transmission (DT) by MS, and to provide expertise for the preparation of the EU Multi-annual Programme (EU MAP) under a revised DCF.

Part I: Evaluation of revised DCF National Programmes for 2016:

The EWG 15-15 evaluated the revisions of National Programmes (NPs) 2016 from Croatia, Estonia, Ireland, Slovenia and Spain. Most of the revisions were found to be minor, according to the criteria used by STECF before. For Croatia and Ireland, all NP changes are acceptable. For the other three MS, the EWG suggests that clarification on proposed changes in several NP modules is needed. The Spanish NP was submitted in Spanish and could not be fully evaluated, as the available machine translation into English did not contain the tracked changes of the Spanish version.

Part II: Revision of Annual Reporting and Data Transmission exercises:

The EWG 15-15 revised the guidelines and standard table templates for Annual Reports (AR), draft guidelines for pre-screening and evaluation of AR and Data Transmission (DT) by MS and the AR evaluation form. These files were prepared by an ad hoc expert before the meeting. The EWG suggests several simplifications and clarifications, as well as amendments for improved overall consistency. Based on the EWG revisions, these files will be finished by the end of January 2016 for dissemination to MS as guidance for the submission of ARs 2015.

Based on a JRC report on end-user feedback on DT and experience gained at the EWG 15-10, the EWG 15-15 was asked to propose improvements for DT feedback. After discussing possible solutions, the EWG considers the following:

- When classifying a DT issue regarding timeliness of the data provisions, one additional category should be created for the classification of the severity of the issue (“Impact on the WG performance”), which is meant to classify situations when the late submission of data had impacted the regular work of the data end-user.
- Each DT exercise should only focus on the data that had been newly provided (except in cases of revisions of a whole time series).
- A template and basic instructions will be made available to the end-users to support the upload of the end-user feedback to the IT platform hosted by JRC. All end-users will be asked to use the template and take the instructions into consideration.

The EWG 15-15 discussed how a better linkage between AR and DT could be achieved, based on two reports by ad hoc experts prepared before the meeting. These reports pointed to modules in the AR that could be flagged as potential sources of later DT failures. The EWG considers these suggestions as serving well as a short-term solution, but there should be a medium to longer term solution incorporating the data delivered to the Regional Databases (RDBs) and other databases storing data collected under the DCF. An updated future scenario for information flow between IT systems in relation to AR, DT and National Work Plans, based on the work of the EWG 14-17, was presented by the EWG 15-15. In addition, a new reporting format for DT in the AR (Table VI.1) has been proposed by the EWG.

Part III: Preparation of future EU MAP:

The European Commission provided a series of documents on various issues with regard to the revision of the EU Multi-annual Programme (EU MAP) for Data Collection. In a central document, the EC made proposals for contents of the EU MAP and directed questions to the EWG 15-15 on several

aspects of the legal requirements under the current proposal for a revised DCF Regulation. The EWG 15-15 found that a part of these questions had been addressed to and answered by STECF before. Furthermore, some of the Commission proposals did not take STECF advice into consideration or contradicted STECF advice, without justifications given for doing so. A part of the documents provided as “fiches” for EWG discussions on the EU MAP were not up-to-date and did not take all relevant reports and advice into account. The EWG 15-15 pointed to the relevant additional information and previous STECF advice in the corresponding report sections.

As a general principle, the EWG 15-15 suggests that detailed appendices should not be included in the new EU MAP. The EU MAP should lay down and specify principles and be considered as the basic binding instrument for MS to carry out fisheries data collection, including the principles for setting thresholds as the basis for sampling. Detailed lists, definitions, additional variables and specification of methodologies (including sampling intensity and frequency) to apply shall be included in a “Guidance Document” accompanying the EU MAP. These lists should be compiled by the Regional Co-ordination Groups (RCGs) and PGECON (or successor) in cooperation with the main data end-users and approved by STECF.

The EWG 15-15 was requested to review the EU MAP appendices and to provide proposals for changes in order to achieve the objectives of the DCF revision. In most cases, previous STECF advice was applied for proposing changes. The EWG discussed all appendices and proposed editorial amendments as well as fundamental changes to attain the principles explained above. Detailed explanations for proposed changes in the appendices are provided in the report.

2 INTRODUCTION

The EWG 15-15 was held in Hamburg, Germany, from 23 to 27 November 2015 to evaluate National Programmes (NP) for 2016 submitted by Member States (MS) under the Data Collection Framework (DCF), to revise procedures and guidance for the submission of DCF Annual Reports (AR) and for the evaluation of AR and Data Transmission (DT) by MS, and to provide expertise for the preparation of the EU Multi-annual Programme (EU MAP) under a revised DCF.

2.1 Terms of Reference for EWG 15-15

The aims of the EWG were as follows:

1. To evaluate the proposed revisions to the DCF 2014-2016 National Programmes for 2016 in terms of conformity and scientific relevance.
2. To revise Annual Reporting and Data Transmission exercises.
3. To provide expertise for preparation of the future EU Multi-annual Programme and National Work Plans.

Part I: Evaluation of revised DCF National Programmes for 2016

Background

Data collection currently occurs under the Data Collection Framework (DCF) and the multi-annual Union programme for data collection established thereunder. Member States establish DCF National Programmes in accordance with provisions of the multi-annual Union programme for data collection (Article 4 of Council Regulation 199/2008). These NPs are set for three years (currently 2014-2016) and contain the Member States' obligations to collect and provide data relevant to their region/fisheries/sectors pursuant to the EU Multiannual Programme. NPs are analysed by the STECF (independent experts) and are adopted by the Commission through a Commission Decision (Article 6). NPs can be modified if requested by a Member State and after evaluation of the proposed changes by the STECF.

Tasks for the EWG

All requests for changes submitted by the 31st of October 2015 will be reviewed by EWG 15-15, using the 'Guidelines and Procedures' developed in SGRN 09-03 as well as the 'Guidelines on amendment of National Programmes 2011-2013 for the year 2013' reviewed by EWG 12-08 (these guidelines apply to the NP 2014-2016 as well). The evaluation with regard to the latter is to determine whether a re-adoption of the 2014-2016 National Programmes (NP) for the year 2016 is required. The evaluation will be based on the overarching criteria of conformity and scientific relevance.

Part II: Revision of Annual Reporting and Data Transmission exercises

Background

Under Article 7 of the DCF Regulation, Member States are required to report annually on the implementation of their National Programme. The Commission shall assess the implementation of the National Programmes on the basis of an evaluation by the STECF.

The current Annual Report guidelines and standard tables were prepared in February 2015, based on experience with evaluation of the Annual Reports 2013 as well as conclusions drawn by the STECF during expert groups EWG 14-07 (Oostende, 23-27 June 2014) and EWG 14-17 (Hamburg, 20-24 October 2014), as reviewed in the STECF Plenary meetings PLEN 14-02 (Copenhagen, 7 - 11 July

2014) and PLEN 14-03 (Brussels, 10 - 14 November 2014). Since then, additional conclusions were drawn by the STECF during expert group EWG 15-10 (Gdynia, 22-26 June 2015), as reviewed in STECF Plenary meeting PLEN 15-02 (Varese, 6-10 July 2015). On the basis of an ad hoc contract, the Commission has prepared a draft update of the guidelines and standard tables, which incorporates any conclusions that were straight forward and agreed by STECF.

Tasks for the EWG

a) Revision of the Annual Report guidelines, standard tables and evaluation procedure

The EWG 15-15 is invited to review the following draft documents, prepared by an ad hoc contract and taking into consideration the conclusions drawn by the STECF: (i) guidelines for pre-screeners, (ii) guidance for submission of Annual Reports, (iii) Annual Report templates, (iv) evaluation form and (v) guidelines for experts on new modules added: MS-recurring issues and MS-specific issues. The EWG 15-15 will be asked to decide upon these changes, so the guidelines and standard tables can be finalized after the meeting.

The focus of the exercise should be on simplification, user-friendly formatting and standardisation.

b) End user feedback and tools for DT assessment

Based on experience with evaluation of the Data Transmission Failures 2015, conclusions drawn by the STECF and JRC Data Coverage Reports, the JRC compiled a document on main issues per end user, as well as guidelines for end users with the aim to streamline the procedure of DT assessment. The EWG 15-15 is invited to review this document. The EWG 15-15 is invited to discuss: (i) pros and cons of possible expansion of the approach developed by JRC to prepare the AR standard tables from the data calls data to modules other than the fleet economic data call, (ii) further enhancement of the data transmission IT platform, after taking into consideration input from the Liaison Meeting 2015.

c) Linking Annual Report with Data Transmission Failures

The EWG 15-15 is invited to review the work carried out by ad hoc contracts on Annual Report modules serving as indicators for potential data failures. The aim is to identify those modules that describe the collection of data and how these can warn about possible gaps in data collection and consequently data transmission issues.

Part III: Preparation of future EU MAP

Background

Following the agreement on the Basic Regulation on the Common Fisheries Policy (Reg. 1380/2013), which includes Article 25 laying out the key principles for Member States to collect biological, technical, environmental and socio-economic data, the Commission has prepared a proposal for a revision of the Data Collection Framework (Council regulation (EC) No. 199/2008), submitted in 2015. This will be followed by a Commission proposal for a revision of the EU Multiannual Programme for data collection. Discussions on the revision of the EU Multiannual Programme are ongoing and the key issues that need to be addressed have been identified and discussed to various extents in STECF expert working groups and other relevant fora.

Under the EMFF, the MS Operational Programmes must be supplemented by a work plan for data collection (Reg. 508/2014, Article 21), replacing the current DCF National Programmes. The STECF EWG 14-17 (Hamburg, 20-24 October 2014) carried out preliminary work on the basic elements of National Work Plans, reviewed in the STECF Plenary (PLEN 14-03, Brussels, 10-14 November 2014).

Tasks for the EWG

The EWG 15-15 is invited to critically assess changes proposed by the Commission by types of variables, to review the EU MAP appendices and to address outstanding questions for which no general agreement has been reached in the past. The EWG 15-15 will be provided with documents produced during consultation with involved parties. The contents of the EU MAP must be put in conjunction with the different parts of the National Work Plans as discussed at the EWG 14-17. In addition, the EWG is requested to give advice about what should not be in the future EU MAP but still must be put into the Work Plans or, for voluntary collection, elsewhere (e.g. Master Reference Register).

3 PART I – EVALUATION OF REVISED DCF NATIONAL PROGRAMMES FOR 2016

The proposed amendments to the NP 2016 were evaluated following the updated Guidelines for the amendment of National Programmes 2011-13 for the year 2013 in the STECF report 15-01¹.

Five Member States submitted proposals for revised NP for 2016 (Croatia, Estonia, Ireland, Slovenia and Spain). These five Member States submitted their full NP highlighting any modifications and also a summary of the proposed amendments. Only Slovenia did not provide a summary on the changes.

Ireland and Spain updated the reference years, i.e., years from which the data that supports the sampling designs are taken, including a re-run of the ranking system. This is marked as a minor revision as the existing guidelines state that: *Regarding **Reference Years**, MS can choose whether or not to update the **reference years** in the text and tables of the amended NP. If a Member State updates the reference years, they do not need to resubmit their amended National Programme to the Commission, but should report on this in their Annual Report.* It also is in line with the conclusion in the STECF report 15-01¹ stating that *if significant changes occur, such as a new sampling métier or changes in sampling intensities, the reference year should be updated to provide background information and justification for these changes. For the future it is advisable to request MS to submit updated NP tables regarding which metiers will be sampled at the sampling intensity and, if applicable, the associated updated NP text.*

In the following sections, the MS submissions were evaluated using the criteria and format used at last year's EWG on NP evaluation (EWG 14-18, STECF report 15-01¹).

3.1 Croatia

Section	Description of the revision	Is revision minor or major?	Is revision justified?	Does revision improve NP?	Is revision acceptable ?	Action needed	Comments
III.A	General description of the fishing sector	Major	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	-
III.A/ III.B	Inclusion of small-scale fisheries for personal needs into the PGP will be delayed. Data for transversal variables will be available in 2016 and for economic variables in 2017 (reference	Minor	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	-

¹ [Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries \(STECF\) – Review of DCF National programme amendments for 2015 \(the 2013 Annual Report for Bulgaria\) & development of the revised DCF Multiannual Programme \(STECF-15-01\). 2015. Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, EUR27090 EN, JRC 94538, 89 pp.: page 18&19.](#)

	year will be 2015).						
VIII	Has been updated with approved and pending request for derogations according economic data collection for small-scale fisheries for personal needs.	Minor	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes. There is a mismatch between the text sections relating to some of the species where derogations were agreed and those species being sampled according to the tables relating to those variables in Tables III.C.5, III.D.6, III.E.1 and III.E.3. The NP states that data would be collected in 2014 -16 for reassessment of the 2013 derogations. Where this has happened, this should be referred to in the text.	Derogations only need to be included for the year of approval and not repeated for subsequent years in Table I.A.1.

3.2 Estonia

Section	Description of the revision	Is revision minor or major?	Is revision justified?	Does revision improve NP?	Is revision acceptable?	Action needed	Comments
II.A	Updated contact details	Minor	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	-
III.A, III.C, III.E	Addition of scientific observers in ICES areas I and II (sections III.A, III.C and III.E)	Minor	Yes	Yes	Partly	Yes; in sections III.C.3 and III.C.4, more information is needed on data quality evaluation and data presentation following the guidelines for submission of NP; Very minor change of NP on p. 11 necessary,	-

						as there are now fleet operations in three and not only two regions anymore.	
III.D	New survey on recreational fisheries	Major	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	-
III.G	Inclusion of Baltic Acoustic Sprat survey into research surveys at sea list	Major	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	-

3.3 Ireland

Section	Description of the revision	Is revision minor or major?	Is revision justified?	Does revision improve NP?	Is revision acceptable?	Action needed	Comments
III.B	Some small text changes including clarification on raising procedures	Minor	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	-
III.B.1.a	Change of wording of definition of variable "direct subsidies" according wording of COM Decision 2010/93/EU.	Minor	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	-
III.B.2	For imputation of non responses, a third method for extra clarification was added.	Minor	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	-
III.C	Table III.C.1 was re-run with new reference years 2012 & 2013	Minor	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	-
III.C	Statistically Sound Sampling Scheme- Design of a pilot programme in 2015 for 2016	Major	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	-
III.C	Modification of protocols to include the sampling of data both onshore and off shore as a result of the landing obligation	Minor	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	-
III.C	Collection of By-catch and PETS data	Minor	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	-
III.G	Boarfish Acoustic Survey, survey description and maps	Major	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	-
III.G	Monkfish and megrim survey	Major	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	-

	VI, survey description and maps						
III.G	Monkfish and megrim survey VII, survey description and maps	Major	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	-

The proposed surveys are not included in DCF survey list (Commission Decision 2010/93/EU, Appendix 9). Following the SGRN 07-01 report², the survey should follow the scheme as presented in that report. However, it is unclear if this procedure should still be applied under the EMFF. The surveys as proposed by MS are initiated on request of the corresponding ICES stock assessment working groups, are in line with existing survey methodologies (basically extending the area covered), compliant with EMFF and nationally funded. The last point raises the discussion if the surveys have to be listed in the DCF NP.

3.4 Slovenia

Section	Description of the revision	Is revision minor or major?	Is revision justified?	Does revision improve NP?	Is revision acceptable?	Action needed	Comments
III.E.6, III.G, VIII	all					Yes	Add summary of the proposed changes following the guidelines of submission of NP
III.E.6	asking for the derogation regarding the biological samplings for individual parameter measurements of age (reading of otoliths) for MEDITS species <i>Merluccius merluccius</i> , <i>Mullus barbatus</i> and <i>Mullus surmuletus</i>	NA	NA	NA	NA	Yes	Amendment not relevant as catches < 200 tonnes don't have to be sampled according to the exemption rules (Commission Decision 2010/93/EU, section B2.5). Average landings in III.E.1 indicate that the catches for those species are less than 200 tonnes.
III.G.5	asking for the derogation regarding the biological samplings for	NA	NA	NA	NA	Yes	Amendment not relevant as catches < 200 tonnes don't have to be sampled according to the exemption rules (Commission 2010/93, article

² [Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries \(STECF\). 2008. Report of the Working Group on Research Needs Review of list of surveys at sea \(Appendix XIV of EU Commission Regulation N°1581/2004\) with their priorities \(SGRN 07-01\). Brussels, 12-16 February 2007. JRC 49126, EUR 23654 EN.](#)

	individual parameter measurements of age (reading of otoliths) for MEDITS species <i>Merluccius merluccius</i> , <i>Mullus barbatus</i> and <i>Mullus surmuletus</i>						B2.5). Average landings in III.E.1 indicate that the catches for those species are less than 200 tonnes.
III.G	Various text changes	NA	NA	NA	NA	Yes	Unclear why the text changes appear. If there are any changes in the NP proposal they should be reflected in the tables. Summarise the proposed changes at the beginning of the amended NP. If MS is obliged to support a survey and is not able to comply with the obligation, MS should ask for a derogation.
VIII	asking for the derogation regarding the biological samplings for individual parameter measurements of age (reading of otoliths) for MEDITS species <i>Merluccius merluccius</i> and <i>Mullus barbatus</i> and <i>Mullus surmuletus</i>	NA	NA	NA	NA	Yes	Amendment not relevant as catches < 200 tonnes don't have to be sampled according to the exemption rules (COM Decision 2010/93/EU, section B2.5). Average landings in III.E.1 indicate that the catches for those species are less than 200 tonnes.

The MS asks for derogations for stocks that do not have to be sampled. The MS should add summary of proposed changes at the beginning of the document.

3.5 Spain

Section	Description of the revision	Is revision minor or major?	Is revision justified ?	Does revision improve NP?	Is revision acceptable?	Action needed	Comments
Table III.C.1	List of identified metiers	Minor	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	Changes to Tables are as given in the summary sheet provided by MS
Table III.C.2	Merging and disaggregation of metiers	Minor	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	-
Table III.C.3	Expected sampled trips by metier	Minor	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	-
Table III.C.4	Metier sampling strategy	Minor	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	-
Table III.C.5	Sampling intensity for length compositions (all metiers combined)	Minor	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	-
Table III.E.1	List of required stocks (Appendix VII)	Minor	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	-
Table III.E.2	Long-term planning of sampling for stock-based variables	Minor	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	-
Table III.E.3	Sampling intensity for stock-based variables	Minor	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	-
Table III.F.2	Conversion factors	Minor	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	-
I. General Framework	Revisions to text	Minor	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	-
II.C Regional coordination	Update of agreements	Minor				Yes. Clarification needed on the impact of cessation of the agreement with the UK and if it should be renewed, as text deleted from NP as submitted making it not	From the summary sheet provided by MS, most of the changes in all sections appear to be minor updates in line with submission guidelines.

						possible for EWG 15-15 to assess the change.	
III.A General descripti on of the fisheries sector	Updated text	Minor				Track changes did not transfer over to the translated (English) version of the full NP, making it not possible for EWG 15-15 to assess fully the impact of any changes.	-
III.C	Updated text	Minor				as above	-
III.D	Updated text	Minor				as above	-
III.E	Updated text	Minor				as above	-
III.G	Updated text	Minor	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	Changes easy to identify in English Translation
IX	Updated list	Minor	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	Changes Highlighted
Annex I	Updated description of Spanish fisheries	Minor				Track changes did not transfer over to the translated (English) version of the full NP, making it not possible for EWG 15-15 to assess fully the impact of any changes.	-
Annex III	Updated list of bilaterals	Minor				Yes. Clarifica- tion needed on the impact of cessation of the agreement with the UK and if it should be renewed, as text deleted from NP as submitted.	-
Annex IV	Addition of pilot study	Minor	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	New section

4 PART II – REVISION OF ANNUAL REPORTING AND DATA TRANSMISSION EXERCISES

4.1 Revision of the Annual Report guidelines, standard tables and evaluation procedure

The EWG 15-15 discussed revised Annual Report (AR) guidelines and standard tables that were prepared by an ad hoc expert before the meeting. The revised AR guidance available at the meeting incorporated the suggestions of the EWG 15-10 (Gdynia, June 2015; STECF report 15-13³). Several editorial amendments and additions based on discussions at the EWG 15-15 were made and will be included in final versions of the AR guidance until the end of January 2016 for dissemination to Member States in February 2016, in time for the preparation of the AR 2015.

Regarding the evaluation procedure for AR and Data Transmission (DT) by MS, an ad hoc expert delivered draft guidelines and templates for pre-screeners and EWGs on the evaluation of ARs and DT failures. The EWG 15-15 also reviewed these documents and suggested improvements based on discussions at the EWG.

4.1.1 Annual Report guidelines and Standard Tables

The guidelines for the submission of the Annual Reports and Standard Tables were reviewed by the EWG 15-15 and some of the proposed changes were implemented and some further additions made. These mainly draft additional tables in the guidelines which explain in more detail how to complete the relevant tables in the Tables I.A.1, I.A.2 and III.A.1; adding an explanation on the use of the comments column; removal of some columns in the tables (Precision target in Table III.E.3 and description of surveys in Table III.G.1); explanations on new colour coding- explaining cells that are filled directly, filled from NP and those that contain calculations. Smaller additions included are requests for submission of a PDF copy of the report as well as a Word document and inserting some more hyperlinks to historical reports.

The EWG discussed the merging of Tables III.C.4 and III.C.3 and considered that while countries are moving towards 4S that merging of these tables is not necessary. Not all countries have implemented the 4S, and therefore, these countries still need these tables. The EWG considered that since there is only one year left with the current regulation, that this exercise would be futile as trying to merge could make the filling of a new combined table more difficult for countries with complex fisheries and sampling frames.

If countries are continuing to use the ranking and the landings from the reference period from their original NP submission or are using an updated reference period (without an updated NP submission), then this should be clearly stated in the text and the tables with the appropriate explanations given for deviations.

An additional column was added in Table III.D.1 for reporting on recreational catches. MS now have to indicate whether they have an estimation of the quarterly catch weight.

The ‘custom lists’ tab in the standard tables was updated with new fields (Fishing Ground) and all of the relevant tabs were updated with these lists. It was decided not to generate a list of métiers, as this is prone to change.

It was decided to keep the column ‘share in EU TAC’ in Table III.E.3, because it is needed to check if a species is not sampled due to the exemption rules. Table III.F.2 was deleted as the EWG considered that it did not serve any purpose for the AR.

³ [Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries \(STECF\). Evaluation of 2014 MS DCF Annual Reports & Data Transmission \(STECF-15-13\). 2015. Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, EUR 27410 EN, JRC 96975, 287 pp.](#)

In section VI, MS are now asked to report data failures in terms of achievement levels (see section 4.3).

4.1.2 Guidelines for the evaluation of Annual Reports and Data Transmission, and evaluation form

The EWG 15-15 updated and refined the evaluation guidelines in order to support pre-screeners and the STECF EWG evaluating ARs and DT failures. Proposals for adding or removing questions were made in the text in order to get better insight into the MS's compliance with the legal obligations.

General comments

- When a table is added to the AR, this table should also be available in the NP, even when this means that all MSs have to resubmit the NP tables as an amendment. Only in this way can the evaluation exercise can be carried out properly. Currently this applies to Table III.D.1 (recreational fisheries). This should be implemented in the future EU MAP.
- The invitation to pre-screeners should be sent well in advance of the AR deadline (31st May), as the pre-screening exercise requires a lot of effort in a short period; pre-screeners need to be able to arrange this in their agendas. This is especially the case for new pre-screeners, as an announcement around the AR deadline limits the possibility of them being able to make room in their planning at such short notice.
- Pre-screeners should also be requested to attend the STECF EWG evaluating the AR in order to make the system as efficient as possible.

Module VI (Management of data)

Based on discussions on end-user feedback (section 4.2) and linking AR with DT (section 4.3), the EWG suggests a new format for Table VI.1 in order to obtain more information on DT failures, especially on the achievement level for DT.

Module VIII (list of acronyms and abbreviations)

For MSs, it is time consuming to keep the list up-to-date. For evaluation purposes, it is almost impossible to check if the list is correct and covering all acronyms and abbreviations. As a result, the pre-screeners and STECF EWG evaluating the ARs only evaluate if there is a list in the report. There is a strong wish for a centralised custom list of acronyms and abbreviations that should be used by all MSs. MSs can then add acronyms and abbreviations (usually of national use) that are not in the custom list to Module VIII.

Module IX (Comments, suggestions)

Pre-screeners should highlight in the evaluation sheet if there is any text in this chapter. The STECF EWG evaluating the ARs should then compile all comments into a single document for the Commission and highlight major issues in the STECF EWG report.

4.2 End-user feedback and tools for Data Transmission assessment

The EWG 15-15 discussed with two key end-users, ICES and STECF, the background document “The DCF Reporting and Implementation Cycles and the Data End-user Feedback”, prepared by JRC (EWG 15-15 Doc. 2). This document builds on the findings and conclusions from the EWG 15-10 (STECF report 15-13⁴) by adding to these the technical details to aid future exercises on end-user feedback.

From the discussion, the JRC report was considered to give a good support to the end-users on the preparation of the feedback from the data they have been provided with by the MS following a DCF data call. The following points were agreed and should add to the JRC document:

1. When classifying an issue regarding the timeliness (issue type = timeliness) of the data provisions, one additional category must be created for the classification of the severity of the issue (“Impact on the WG performance”), which is meant to classify situations when the late submission of data had impacted the regular work of the data end-user. The new severity class corresponds to the highest classification (i.e., more severe than “high”).
2. Each Data Transmission exercise should only focus on the data that had been newly provided. Meaning that, when a data call requests an entire time series to be provided, only the data that was not provided in previous data calls shall be considered for the current exercise. However, this should not apply when a procedure of data revision could have been put in place by a MS. In this case, the entire time series should be considered, since those figures will be assessed for the first time.
3. A template (Excel file) will be made available to the end-users to support the upload of the end-user feedback to the IT platform hosted by JRC on behalf of DG MARE. Together with the template, the criteria of specific fields will be provided, as well as basic instructions to use the template (e.g. only include one MS per issue).
4. To ensure that the STECF EWG on AR/DT evaluation will receive a coherent and harmonized input to assess Data Transmission, every data end-user will be requested to adhere to the same approach on delivering the feedback to DG MARE, i.e. to use the Excel template to provide the data issues and follow the guidelines on the identification and classification of the issues as stated in the JRC document.
5. When available, end-users should provide information on the time stamp of the data submission.

⁴ [Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries \(STECF\). Evaluation of 2014 MS DCF Annual Reports & Data Transmission \(STECF-15-13\). 2015. Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, EUR 27410 EN, JRC 96975, 287 pp.](#)

4.3 Linking Annual Reports with Data Transmission Failures

4.3.1 Reports from ad hoc experts on linking Annual Reports with Data Transmission

As input for the EWG discussion, two reports on improving the link between AR and DT were prepared by ad hoc experts, one on biological data (EWG 15-15 Doc. 3) and one on economic and transversal data (EWG 15-15 Doc. 4). These reports are meant to close the cycle of the data flow between AR and DT. Currently, the missing link is the connection of the data collection and end-users.

The ad hoc contracts were set up to (1) help the MS to improve the sampling, and (2) let the AR provide information for the DT evaluation exercise. The proposals as presented in the reports should serve as a short-term solution. Parts of the analysis of the AR tables related to DT can be automated.

The EWG 15-15 discussed that:

- The proposed solution serves well as a short-term solution;
- There should be a medium to longer term solution incorporating the data delivered to the Regional Databases (RDBs) and other databases storing data collected under the DCF. With the purpose of a link between what has been already agreed in the EWG 14-17 (report STECF-14-24⁵, section 4 - Long-term perspectives for National Workplans and Annual Reports), this solution was further elaborated by the EWG 15-15 and the outcomes of this work are presented in section 5.1.

The EWG 15-15 agrees that:

- In future, the database containing NP and AR tables should be filled as much as possible directly from existing databases;
- The RCMs/RCGs are responsible for the planning of the sampling in a region;
- End-users send the feedback on DT to the Commission, following a Memorandum of Understanding;
- End-users preferably provide feedback using similar criteria;
- All short-term developments should be done in line with the medium and longer term developments.

The EWG 15-15 suggests that Table VI.1 and section VI in the AR should be updated:

- MSs report data failures in Table VI.1;
- Table VI.1 should have room for comments;
- Add column ‘likely to encounter data issues in the current year?’;
- Add subheading in chapter VI of the AR to ask for explanations on data failures.

Centralised data call registrations/data requirements from end-users have to be taken into account (e.g. ICES: <http://www.ices.dk/marine-data/tools/Pages/Data-calls.aspx>) .

⁵ [Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries \(STECF\) – Preparations for future data collection under the revised DCF \(STECF-14-24\). 2014. Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, EUR 26954 EN, JRC 93103, 44 pp.](#)

The output of centralised data calls/requirements should be used for Table VI.1:

- Each data call contains a standard table that the MS can fill in when responding to a data call. This information can serve as input for the AR and can be used by end-users and the Commission as an early warning for non-compliance on data transmission.
- Communication between end-users and Commission should be improved, especially informal communications.
- An overview of data that have to be collected under the DCF should be at least available for the DT pre-screeners and EWG on AR/DT evaluation.

The economic data requested for DT are in general more standardised. Moreover, these data are being stored in a database at the JRC already. Thus it is comparatively straightforward to identify gaps or failures. Usually, the results of data calls directly feed into the compilation of the Annual Economic Report (AER). Failures are detected at least partly ahead of the AER EWG meeting and feedback is given to MS. For an IT-based comparison of DT with NP, it would be necessary to implement NP tables into the economics database.

4.3.2 Implementation of generating AR tables from information submitted through data calls

Following the EWG 14-17 suggestions (STECF report 14-24⁶), JRC performed an exercise on deriving AR Tables III.B.1-III.B.3 from data available through the fleet economics data call in 2015. For that purpose, the data call templates were extended by a few columns which could be filled in by MS on a voluntary basis. All participating MS welcomed the exercise and appreciated the outcome (see PGECON 2015 report) and regarded it helpful to facilitate the AR reporting requirements. In fact, for fleet economic data, the approach is mature enough to replace the obligation of AR tables III.B.1-3, provided some adjustments are implemented.

The EWG 15-10 recommended that the “viability of extending this exercise to biological and transversal should be assessed in forthcoming STECF EWG.”

The EWG 15-10 observed some inconsistencies which should be solved:

- “- Table III.B.2 requires fleet at the 1st of January, while the data call requests for “target fleet” that could be different,*
- Response rates reported in table III.B.1 should be in some way consistent with response rates reported in table III.B.3,*
- Naming of fleet segments and formats of the JRC tables differ from guidelines.”*

Tables III.B.2 and III.B.3 could be comprehensively extracted from the data collected through the data call. For Table III.B.1, some information was missing:

- Planned sample number,*
- Planned sample rate,*
- Type of data collection scheme,*
- Achieved sample number*
- Achieved sample rate.*

⁶ [Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries \(STECF\) – Preparations for future data collection under the revised DCF \(STECF-14-24\). 2014. Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, EUR 26954 EN, JRC 93103, 44 pp.](#)

These data should in general be available through the NP tables (see also EWG 14-17 report⁶, Table 4.2.1). However, as NP tables have not been introduced into a database yet, those cells were not available for the exercise. But this can be implemented for the future.

According to PGECON 2015, *“one major difference between IIIB1 and IIIB3 is that IIIB3 refers to single variables whereas IIIB1 is meant to describe the characteristics of the surveys through which the individual variables are achieved. The possible application for this purpose was assessed taking into account different scenarios as for instance the cases when MS have different sampling strategies for different fleet segments and variables.”*

According to our best knowledge, AR tables have not been used with respect to the characteristics of surveys. If a MS applies different sampling strategies for different variables within a fleet segments, this is reflected in Table III.B.3 where the sampling strategy is contained. It is a possibility that a MS performs two different surveys within a segment to collect the same variable. However, it is unclear which conclusions could be drawn from that kind of information.

Another example of information that is only provided in Table III.B.1 is the frame population. According to PGECON 2015, the interpretation of “frame population” varies grossly between MS. Thus far, the frame population has never been analysed. Given these circumstances, it appears justifiable to skip this kind of information.

Given these considerations, Table III.B.1 appears to be redundant. Thus EWG 15-15 recommends reconsidering if AR Table III.B.1 is really relevant for the evaluation of MS performance. A table similar to Table III.B.1, giving an overview on fleet level, could be created from the data call database upon request.

If Table III.B.1 is removed from the AR table template, the remaining fleet economics Tables III.B.2 and III.B.3 could be automatically derived from the JRC database, given the design of the 2015 data call.

Furthermore, the EWG 15-15 suggests considering the completion of the fleet economics data call as sufficient contribution of MS to the AR table part (i.e. Tables III.B.2 and III.B.3). In other words, if a MS has completed the data call on fleet economics, a separate provision of Tables III.B.2 and III.B.3 would no longer be required.

Given the timing – the AR 2015 guidelines have been already discussed and amended - such modifications can no longer take place in due time. Nevertheless, this analysis should be fully considered when the new templates and procedures for the upcoming DCF planning period start to be devised.

5 PART III – PREPARATION OF FUTURE EU MAP

The European Commission provided the EWG 15-15 with a document containing proposals for the contents of the future EU Multi-annual Programme for Data Collection (EU MAP) and questions to the EWG 15-15 (see Annex 1) and a series of documents (“fiches”) and reports dealing with various aspects of the EU MAP (see Background documents). The EWG 15-15 found that a part of these questions had been addressed to and answered by STECF before. Furthermore, some of the Commission proposals did not take STECF advice into consideration or contradicted STECF advice, without justifications given for doing so. A part of the documents provided as “fiches” for EWG discussions on the EU MAP were not up-to-date and did not take all relevant reports and advice into account.

The following report sections contain the EWG comments and answers to the questions raised by the Commission in the document “Commission proposal for the contents of the future EU MAP” (Annex 1), by legal provisions in the DCF proposal (Document COM(2015) 294 final of 18 June 2015). The EWG 15-15 comments on the Commission proposals are provided in sections 5.2 and 5.3, while section 5.1 is laying out the EWG’s general considerations for a future EU MAP.

The EWG 15-15 was also requested to review the EU MAP appendices and to provide proposals for changes in order to achieve the objectives of the DCF revision. In most cases, previous STECF advice was applied for proposing changes. The EWG discussed all appendices and proposed editorial amendments as well as fundamental changes. Detailed explanations for proposed changes in the appendices are provided in the report section 5.4.

5.1 DCF, EU MAP and Guidance Document

For clarification, the scheme below illustrates the structure of the future Data Collection system, in particular with regard to the incorporation of detailed data collection elements, suggested by the EWG 15-15.

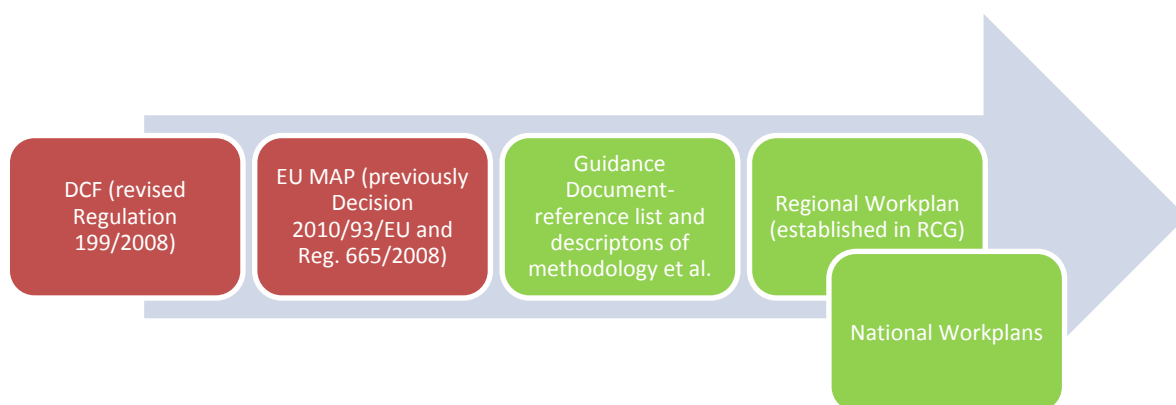


Figure 5.1.1: Levels of detail for implementation of the work plan. Red= stability in place, Green = flexibility to change

As stated earlier by the EWG 14-02 (STECF report 14-07⁷), the EWG 15-15 is of the opinion that no detailed appendices shall be included in the new DCF Regulation or in the EU MAP, but in the “Guidance Document”.

In the whole process of implementation of the future Data Collection, the RCGs are tasked with a central role. Therefore, it is of crucial importance that all relevant documents should be available in a central website, which is easily accessible and user-friendly. The central website as well as all documents need to have a clear version control system.

As a follow-up of the EWG 14-17 regarding the National Work Plans and Annual Report information flows (STECF report 14-24⁸, section 4.1.3), the EWG 15-15 updated the schematic presentation of the scenario that should support the implementation of the new DCF framework (Figure 5.1.2).

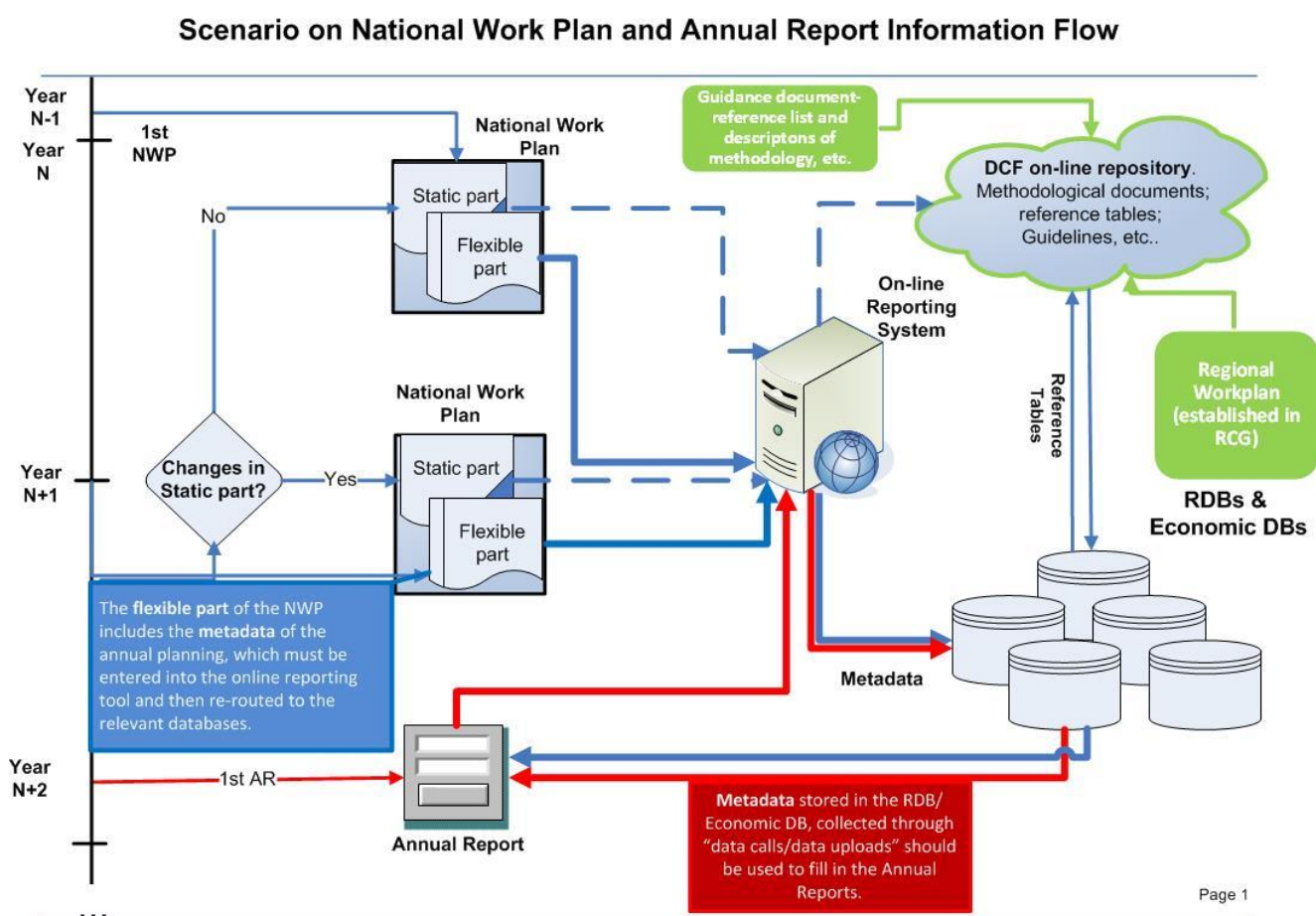


Figure 5.1.2: Elements and linkages of National Work Plans and Annual Reports under the future EU MAP.

⁷ Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) – DCF Revision - part 4 (STECF-14-07). 2014. Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, EUR 26612 EN, JRC 89788, 77 pp.

⁸ Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) – Preparations for future data collection under the revised DCF (STECF-14-24). 2014. Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, EUR 26954 EN, JRC 93103, 44 pp.

Reference to Guidance Document / stand-alone annexes in the future EU MAP

The EWG 15-15 is of the opinion that the new legislation (DCF) should include both a timeline of the frequency when the Guidance Document shall be updated and the full procedure of the process of agreeing any modifications. This should speed up the MS implementation of any planned changes that are agreed.

The Guidance Document to be used needs to be in place so that all information is available for MS to ensure that any agreed changes can be accounted for in their annual work plans for the next submission.

Who may propose changes?:

- ✓ End users (following the proposed identification of end-user in EWG 13-02, STECF report 13-06⁹)
- ✓ Individual MS
- ✓ The European Commission

Where these changes should be agreed:

In the first instance, the most appropriate forum for modifications to be agreed would be the RCGs and PGECON (or successor) as it is likely that a high proportion of the proposed changes will not affect all species / stocks / fleets in all RCGs at the same time or to the same magnitude.

Given that all MS have finite budgets and resources available it may be necessary for an umbrella (Liaison) group to be set up to prioritise / ratify any changes in circumstances where the overall number of modifications for a given year has a high cost impact.

Timeline

There are already dates foreseen for submission and review of NP proposals and AR and for the timing of the RCGs. It should be ensured that any modification to the Guidance Document fits to the timeline of the existing process.

5.2 Biological variables

5.2.1 Collection of biological data

As a general principle, detailed appendices shall not be included in the new EU MAP. The EU MAP should lay down and specify principles and be considered as the basic binding instrument for MS to carry out fisheries data collection, including the principles for setting thresholds as the basis for sampling. Detailed lists, definitions, additional variables and specification of methodologies (including sampling intensity and frequency) etc. to apply shall be included in the Guidance Document accompanying the EU MAP (see section 5.1). These lists will be compiled by the RCGs and PGECON (or successor) in cooperation with the main end users (see description in EWG 13-02, STECF report 13-06⁹) and approved by STECF. As continuity shall be ensured, the current lists shall act as basis for discussion or, when RCG have already compiled updated lists, the most recent version shall be used as

⁹ [Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries \(STECF\) – Review of DC MAP – Part 1 \(STECF-13-06\). 2013. Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, EUR 25974 EN, JRC 81593, 42 pp.](#)

a basis. Also, as described by EWG 14-17 (STECF report 14-24¹⁰), the current best practices shall form the basis for future work.

Special attention needs to be paid to the RCG approval procedures. Simple decision-making procedures shall be described for the RCGs. A simple majority voting system is proposed in which each MS has one vote. When the total EU TAC share is low (threshold to be specified), MS shall not be obliged to collect data, unless a RFMO requires data collection under their respective rules of procedure. For thresholds, EU TAC shares shall form the basis while paying attention to the relative contribution of the total EU share to the total TAC. In regions without TACs, relative shares in the total EU landings may form the basis for thresholds.

A proposal for a revised Appendix VII is provided in a separate document.

5.2.1.1 Commercial fisheries

Appendix VII may be revised as described above.

The Control Regulation (Regulations 1224/2009 and 404/2011) is not considered suitable as the basis for collecting biological information for TAC nor non-TAC species. The Control Regulation has no link to the current DCF Appendix VII.

As described above, the general specification (e.g. species, methodology, sampling frequency, exemption rules) of the biological variables to be collected will be specified by the RCG. The EWG 15-15 agrees on the basic principle laid out in Appendix 3 of the “Fiche on biological data on commercial fisheries” (Background documents). This appendix specifies the basic data to be collected (length and weight) from commercial fisheries, as well as the inclusion of end users needs regarding spatial and temporal coverage as well as variables (e.g. age, sex, maturity etc.), intensity and frequency of sampling.

Thus - by default - for all species caught, length and weight data will be collected, but exceptions may occur in areas where many species are present, depending on the area and STECF/RCG judgement for e.g. species that are seldomly caught.

5.2.1.2 Recreational fisheries

The EWG 15-15 is of the opinion that the starting point for the list of species to be collected and new species may come in through the RCGs procedures. As a starting point, the current proposal as described in the “fiche on recreational fisheries” (Background documents) should be adapted to the following minimum:

Baltic: remove sharks, add sea trout

North Sea: add seabass, pollack, European lobster

North Atlantic: add pollack

Mediterranean: add large pelagics and *Epinephelus* species

The basic information to be collected is the number of individuals and the total weight by species. In order to fulfil the requirements for assessments, length compositions by species may be required. As confidence levels are (very) low, it is unlikely that setting thresholds will suffice for setting general derogations for MS. The general approach should be to collect data, however, MS can apply for a

¹⁰ [Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries \(STECF\) – Preparations for future data collection under the revised DCF \(STECF-14-24\). 2014. Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, EUR 26954 EN, JRC 93103, 44 pp.](#)

derogation through the RCGs, based on pilot studies and scientific proof that the relative contribution is low.

As licensing systems are not widely implemented and are unlikely to be implemented at a national level for each MS, the number of licences is not an appropriate variable to be collected. The number of fishermen (by gear type) is the variable to be collected, the methodology to achieve this number is at the discretion of the MS, while the RCG approves the methodology. This is the general approach for the new EU MAP: The EU MAP shall not specify methodologies, but lay down the basic principles and specify the data required to collect. The end-users and RCGs should decide on a regional level on the relevant frequency to collect and report data while addressing end-user needs.

In theory, survivability studies could be useful in principal, however, these studies should be executed on a species-by-species level as well as differentiate by region, season and fishing technique. Given these limitations, such studies are not considered feasible.

5.2.1.3 Eels and salmon

STECF EWG 14-17 (STECF report 14-24¹¹) addressed these issues thoroughly on the basis of the reports mentioned. This meeting compiled an overview and approach to address these issues for the new DCF.

5.2.1.4 Long-distance fisheries (external waters)

As a general rule, MS should comply with rules set by the RFMO in place as already prescribed in the current DCF. This approach should continue, without listing all the variables. The RCG on Long-Distance Fisheries (LDF) shall advise on the variables to be collected based on RFMO procedures in place.

5.2.1.5 Outermost regions

For the outermost regions, the general approach to collect data on a species-by-species basis applies. For the outermost regions and except for large pelagics, the relevant RCGs shall set up the list of important species in line with the relevant RFMO and EU needs. For large pelagics, the RCG on large pelagics shall specify the data and species to be collected. STECF EWG 14-18 (STECF report 15-01¹²) addressed this issue for outermost regions, including the separation of the various regions over the relevant RCGs and adaption of the current Appendix 1 of the EU MAP. To facilitate this process as well as to identify the responsible and appropriate RCG, the EWG 15-15 agrees with the proposal specified in the “fiche on outermost regions” (Background documents) to set up an ad-hoc contract on the implementation of the current EU MAP in close cooperation with the relevant MS to identify the appropriate fishing activities as well as the biological and economic data to be collected.

¹¹ [Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries \(STECF\) – Preparations for future data collection under the revised DCF \(STECF-14-24\). 2014. Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, EUR 26954 EN, JRC 93103, 44 pp.](#)

¹² [Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries \(STECF\) – Review of DCF National programme amendments for 2015 \(the 2013 Annual Report for Bulgaria\) & development of the revised DCF Multiannual Programme \(STECF-15-01\). 2015. Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, EUR27090 EN, JRC 94538, 89 pp.](#)

5.2.1.6 Deep-sea regulation, ecosystem data

The EWG 15-15 is of the opinion that EU MAP should not incorporate the deep-sea regulation and provisions as such. The regulation shall be referenced to in the recitals and shall be considered in the end-user consultation process. The deep-sea regulation requires more detailed data, but the European Commission shall ensure that the deep-sea regulation serves the purpose of data provision under the EU MAP.

5.2.2 Transversal variables

For transversal variables, the Control Regulation (Regs. 1224/2009 and 404/2011) shall be considered as the basis for collecting and providing the data. However, as with other regulations conjunct with the EU MAP, the Control Regulation shall be considered in the end-user consultation process and the European Commission shall ensure that the Control Regulation serves the purpose of data provision under the EU MAP. As described in the STECF report 13-12¹³ (EWG 13-05), consideration shall be given to the data quality collected under the control regulation. If the data is not considered to be appropriate, the EU MAP shall facilitate the data collection up to the required level.

5.2.3 By-catch of non-target species

In general, incidental by-catch of vulnerable and endangered species (birds, reptiles, mammals and rare fish) shall be recorded up to species level on a haul-by-haul basis during fisheries observer trips by default. In case fisheries observer trips are not considered to cover the data collection of incidental by-catch sufficiently, alternative methodologies may be implemented by MS after approval of RCGs. This issue has been extensively discussed in the EWG 13-18 (STECF report 14-02¹⁴) and refined and detailed in the EWG 14-02 (STECF report 14-07¹⁵) and has resulted in description of adequate protocols and recording sheets for on-board sampling. Coverage of métiers and appropriate methodology (on-board sampling) will be described by the relevant RCGs in cooperation with the specialist end-users of the data, international treaties and for cetaceans in line with the appropriate regulations in place.

5.2.4 Impacts of fisheries on marine habitats

The EWG 15-15 is of the opinion that the variables describing the impact of fisheries on the marine habitat should be covered sufficiently under the Control Regulation as these variables are considered as transversal variables and duplication of the collection of these data should be avoided. Should the quality of data collected under the Control Regulation be insufficient, either the Control Regulation requirements need to be adapted by the Commission to suit the needs, or additional data collection can be commenced under the EU MAP, based on the addition through the relevant RCG. Adapting the Control Regulation might be more cost-effective than additional data collection under the EU MAP, e.g. to avoid the need to install multiple localisation systems onboard fishing vessels. Data transfer and data availability shall be granted to fisheries data collectors, thus solving the current issue that data

¹³ [Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries \(STECF\) – Review of DC MAP – Part 2 \(STECF-13-12\). 2013. Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, EUR 26095 EN, JRC 83566, 87 pp.](#)

¹⁴ [Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries \(STECF\) – Revision of DCF \(STECF-14-02\). 2014. Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, EUR 26573 EN, JRC89196, 103 pp.](#)

¹⁵ [Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries \(STECF\) – DCF Revision - part 4 \(STECF-14-07\). 2014. Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, EUR 26612 EN, JRC 89788, 77 pp.](#)

collected under the Control Regulation cannot be made available for use beyond the scope of the Control Regulation.

5.2.5 Impacts of fisheries on food webs

The EWG 14-02 (STECF report 14-07¹⁵) clearly described the issues in collecting stomach data including analysis, spatial and temporal coverage and identified that a pilot study is considered to be appropriate to test the feasibility for future EU MAP revisions and based on a strict end user needs. The pilot study should build upon the experience gained under the MARE 2014/19 studies (“Strengthening regional cooperation in the area of fisheries data collection”) as well as the EU “Study on the stomach content of fish to support the assessment of GES of marine food webs and the prediction of MSY after stock restoration” (MARE/2012/02). Ultimately, the RCG shall decide upon the feasibility of inclusion of the data collection in the regional sampling programmes, including selection of species, temporal and spatial scale as well as the periodicity and intensity. Priority shall be given to address MSFD indicators. The EWG 15-15 is of the opinion that collecting stomach content data will not be feasible under the EU MAP before the outcomes of pilot studies are known.

5.2.6 Data on the activity of Union vessels in Union and external waters, including level of fishing and of effort and capacity of the Union fleet

The EWG 15-15 is of the opinion that this issue should be solved under the Control Regulation instead of through the EU MAP. This includes data provision to users outside the Control Authorities.

5.2.7 Thresholds below which Member States do not need to collect data or carry out research surveys, based on their fishing activities

The variables survey effort and maximum days can be deleted as these variables are not indicative of cost effectiveness and are restrictive to deploying new/additional tasks for ecosystem system data collection through already existing surveys.

The EWG 15-15 agrees with the principles laid out by the EWG 12-01 (STECF report 12-07¹⁶) and the cost sharing methodology as described in recent RCM reports (e.g. RCM NS&EA 2014, 2015, RCM NA 2014, 2015). The EU MAP shall contain a basic list of mandatory international coordinated surveys, tested against updated eligibility criteria (as suggested by RCM NA 2015, SGRN 10-03¹⁷). The criteria can be specified in the Guidance Document accompanying the new EU MAP. The most up-to-date survey list is provided by the 2015 RCMs (RCM MED&BS), or in case the RCM did not deliver a list, the list as was compiled for and discussed at the EWG 13-05 (STECF report 13-12¹⁸).

In order to review and update the basic list of mandatory surveys, the EWG 15-15 suggests (in line with RCM NA, but applicable to all RCGs dealing with EU regions) to organise a dedicated expert

¹⁶ [Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries \(STECF\). Review of Proposed DCF 2014-2020 – Part 1 \(STECF-12-07\). 2012. Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, EUR 25338 EN, JRC 71290, 70 pp.](#)

¹⁷ [SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COMMITTEE FOR FISHERIES \(STECF\). SUB-GROUP ON RESEARCH NEEDS. SGRN 10-03. REVIEW OF NEEDS RELATED TO SURVEYS. 4 - 8 OCTOBER 2010, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM.](#)

¹⁸ [Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries \(STECF\) – Review of DC MAP – Part 2 \(STECF-13-12\). 2013. Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, EUR 26095 EN, JRC 83566, 87 pp.](#)

working group early 2016. This group shall have an up to date list of eligibility criteria available (e.g. compiled through an ad-hoc contract) and incorporate the most up-to-date survey list as a basis. For the ICES area, the results of the EFARO-ICES meeting on Cooperation in Surveys and Data Collection (EIMSD, January 2016) shall be taken into account. In case the proposed workshop is not feasible, the survey list produced by STECF EWG 13-05 (STECF report 13-12¹⁹) shall form the basic list to be included in the initial version of the new EU MAP. The list can then be updated later through the RCG procedures and approved by STECF.

Future international surveys can be included on the basis of the list of eligibility criteria, based upon requests by end users and to be decided by the RCGs.

For cost sharing, the thresholds for MS to share in the survey costs shall be based on the relative share of the EU TAC by MS as described in the 2015 RCM reports. The share of the EU TAC is the default option. If no EU TAC share exists, RCGs can decide on a different indicator for cost sharing. Also, RCGs need to develop a methodology to cost share multi-species surveys, e.g. through setting thresholds for groups of species based on the order of the species. Without the need of setting conversion factors for e.g. more valuable species as the species under investigation has limited influence on the daily vessel prices.

The PGECON workshop on thresholds, as mentioned in the “Commission proposal for the contents of the future EU MAP” (Annex 1), is not of relevance for survey cost shares.

5.2.8 *(Dis-)aggregation levels*

Disaggregation levels shall be determined in the Guidance Document, based on RCG expertise in cooperation with the relevant end-users. Biological data will be available at the highest level of detail, thus allowing analysis of the impact of policy measures, while statistical sound sampling procedures ensure sufficient coverage serving the purpose of delivering different aggregation levels, including the provision of data on a metier level allowing to link biological and economic data.

5.2.9 *Methodology*

As described in various STECF reports (e.g. EWG 13-05, STECF report 13-12¹⁹), the new EU MAP should not be prescriptive in terms of methodology to collect the data. Possible solutions can be described in the Guidance Document, but the appropriate method to collect the data that suits the needs of end users is up to the MS and approval for this method shall be sought at the RCGs. Concurrent sampling or other strict methodologies shall not be included in the EU MAP.

¹⁹ [Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries \(STECF\) – Review of DC MAP – Part 2 \(STECF-13-12\). 2013. Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, EUR 26095 EN, JRC 83566, 87 pp.](#)

5.3 Economic and transversal variables

5.3.1 General observations

The EWG 15-15 (economists sub-group) addressed the “Commission proposal for the contents of the future EU MAP” (see Annex 1) and the questions from the Commission on the Appendixes for the future EU MAP.

The EWG observed that the Commission proposal document was partly inconsistent between columns: The “Question to the EWG” did not always match the “Legal provisions” or the “Changes proposed” and thus the issue was not always clear. The EWG had to assume what the core question was and tried to respond accordingly.

The EWG also observed that the proposal from the Commission was not updated to the latest advice from STECF (e.g. latest version of the appendix to the regulation in the STECF report 13-12¹⁹) and lacked references to literature or previous documents of the expert and coordination groups (e.g. for new variables suggested by the EC for this EWG).

The EWG 15-15 therefore suggests that previous STECF advice should be considered when drafting the EU MAP, in particular with respect to the list of variables to be collected and the segmentation.

In revising the content of the future EU MAP with respect to the economic modules, the EWG 15-15 applied the general principle that the EU MAP should include the list of variables, the population to which variables refer and the minimum level of segmentation of the population. Other important aspects like the definition of the variables, the resolution, the time frame for collecting and providing data and the appropriate methodology should be included in the Guidance Document accompanying the EU MAP (see section 5.1).

This means that the EU MAP should clearly state that MS have to refer to the Guidance Document for preparation of the National Work Plans.

5.3.2 Recreational fisheries

The EWG 15-15 considers that the definition of recreational fisheries has been amended in the proposal for the new DCF regulation (recast). The aim of the proposal is to enlarge the definition of “recreational fisheries” to include all the non-commercial fisheries, irrespective of their specific purpose, in order to cover all forms of fisheries that may affect fish stocks. This will imply a higher data collection effort for MS.

Recreational fisheries can have a significant impact on fish resources and basic data on this sector should, therefore, be collected. The focus is on ecosystem impacts of recreational fisheries.

The EWG 15-15 considers that the use of economic data on recreational fisheries is very low and that the actual need is to improve the quality of data on recreational fisheries currently provided through the economic data call.

The Commission asked to advise on the inclusion of the “turnover and employment of the companies providing services for recreational fisheries” in the EU MAP. The EWG considers that these variables are not directly related to the assessment of the state of exploited marine biological resources, the impact that fishing activities on the marine ecosystems and socio-economic performance of the fisheries, which are the main aims of the DCF, as defined by article 25 of the CFP (Reg. 1380/2013).

5.3.3 *Specific case of long-distance fisheries (external waters)*

The EWG 15-15 was requested to “solve the issue of non-submitted data on segments in the external fleet with few vessels”. The EWG is of the opinion that this issue should be dealt within the already established European legal framework on the data protection authority and statistical confidentiality (Reg. 223/2009 on European statistics).

Clustering procedures are already established and reported in the guidelines for NP and AR.

5.3.4 *Specific case of Outermost regions*

The STECF EWG 14-18 (STECF report 15-01²⁰) already addressed this issue for outermost regions.

In particular, it was considered that social and economic data collected under DCF should be reported for each supra region and fleet segment, as defined on Appendix II and III, respectively. However, fleet segments and supra regions do not have enough resolution to distinguish the outermost regions (e.g., Azores is inside North Atlantic, mixed with mainland vessels), nor they can distinguish fleets operating exclusively outside Union waters.

The STECF EWG 14-18 (STECF report 15-01²⁰) proposed the addition of an indicator that can divide a fleet segment when there is a need to differentiate an existing segment.

5.3.5 *Transversal variables (Appendix VIII)*

The group recommends considering what has been already discussed and recommended in previous STECF meetings (in particular: EWG 13-02, STECF report 13-06²¹; and EWG 13-05, STECF report 13-12²²).

The appendix on transversal data should be maintained to inform on the variables to be collected in case Member States implement additional collection of the data concerned (EWG 13-05). In addition, effort variables have to be specified for the artisanal fisheries. The group advises to consider the outcome of the DCF Workshop on "Common understanding and statistical methodologies to estimate/re-evaluate transversal data in small-scale fisheries" (Nantes, 21-23 May 2013), endorsed by PGECON and the 2014 LM. One of the outcomes of the workshop was a proposal for new EU MAP requirements for vessels < 10 meters.

Regarding the content of the appendix, the columns “Heading”, “Variable” and “Unit” should be kept; while the columns “Gear (Level 2 in the matrix)”, “Disaggregation Level” and “Reference period” could be deleted. Disaggregation levels and specifications could be provided by the Guidance Document. In particular, the Guidance Document should adopt the conclusions of the DCF workshop on transversal data, as already revised by STECF (Report on the Workshop on Transversal Variables, linking economic and biological effort data (call) design, Zagreb, 19-23 January 2015).

The EWG 15-15 also considers that transversal data on the value and volume of catches and landings, fishing effort and fleet capacity are essential for the definition of fleet segments and fisheries. They are

²⁰ [Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries \(STECF\) – Review of DCF National programme amendments for 2015 \(the 2013 Annual Report for Bulgaria\) & development of the revised DCF Multiannual Programme \(STECF-15-01\). 2015. Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, EUR27090 EN, JRC 94538, 89 pp.](#)

²¹ [Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries \(STECF\) – Review of DC MAP – Part 1 \(STECF-13-06\). 2013. Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, EUR 25974 EN, JRC 81593, 42 pp.](#)

²² [Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries \(STECF\) – Review of DC MAP – Part 2 \(STECF-13-12\). 2013. Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, EUR 26095 EN, JRC 83566, 87 pp.](#)

the basis for the sampling schemes (biological and economic surveys) and they provide the link between economic and biological data.

Considering the wide use of these data, a structured database of transversal data at the highest level of resolution should be made available at regional and European level. This issue will be further discussed at the Transversal Data Workshop to be held in February 2016.

5.3.6 Data on the activity of Union vessels in Union and external waters, including level of fishing and of effort and capacity of the Union fleet

The EWG 15-15 was requested to “solve the issue of non-submitted data on segments in the external fleet with few vessels”. EWG cannot see the link between the “legal provision” (i.e. “data on the activity of union vessels...”), the proposed changes (“Remove duplication...”) and the question mentioned before.

The issue of confidentiality has been addressed under the point on “Specific case of long-distance fisheries (external waters)”.

Referring to the specific case of vessels not covered by logbook or VMS obligation (for example, small-scale fleet), the EWG considers essential to maintain the current provisions, requiring the collection of activity data under the DCF.

Further considerations on this issue have been provided recently by STECF Plenary (PLEN 15-03 report, section 6.12).

5.3.7 Socio-economic data on fisheries to enable the assessment of the socio-economic performance of the Union fisheries sector

The EWG 15-15 suggests to consider what has been already discussed and recommended in previous STECF meetings. This includes the advice to no longer use the expression “socio-economic”, but treat these fields separately as “social data” and “economic data”.

Several changes have been already proposed to Appendix VI (List of Economic variables for the fleet) by EWG 13-05 (STECF report 13-12²³, appendix XI, page 63).

The EWG 15-15 considers this Appendix from EWG 13-05 as the baseline for discussion.

As a general comment, the appendix in the EU MAP should only include the list of variables and the column “unit” (without any additional information in brackets). The column on “specification for the collection of data” is no longer necessary, as the Guidance Document will provide these details.

The EU MAP should specify (in the text or as a footnote to the economic appendix) that the basic segmentation to collect and provide economic data is reported in Appendix III (fleet segmentation by Region). Different levels of segmentation could be proposed by the EU Co-ordination Group (EUCG) and included in the Guidance Document, thus allowing to consider specific data needs. For this aim, the EWG suggests to follow the approach proposed by STECF EWG 14-18 (report STECF 15-01²⁴; the addition of an indicator that can divide a fleet segment when there is a need to differentiate an existing segment). This approach should be described in the Guidance Document.

²³ [Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries \(STECF\) – Review of DC MAP – Part 2 \(STECF-13-12\). 2013. Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, EUR 26095 EN, JRC 83566, 87 pp.](#)

²⁴ [Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries \(STECF\) – Review of DCF National programme amendments for 2015 \(the 2013 Annual Report for Bulgaria\) & development of the revised DCF Multiannual Programme \(STECF-15-01\). 2015. Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, EUR27090 EN, JRC 94538, 89 pp.](#)

The footnotes currently included in Appendix VI can be deleted because they refer to definition or specification of variables.

Size categories for the variable “number of fishing enterprises” could be specified in the Guidance Document.

Regarding subsidies, the EWG 15-15 reviewed previous STECF reports and the JRC Report on DCF economics (Background documents) and suggests to include fuel subsidies in the list of variables to be collected. In addition, subsidies on investments should be included. In this way, all the different three categories of subsidies are included separately (direct/operating subsidies, subsidies on investments, fuel subsidies). This proposal is also in line with the glossary of the economic terms presented and discussed in PGECON 2013, as endorsed by 2013 LM. The Guidance Document should inform on the definition, methodologies and consistency with the Structural Business Statistics (SBS, Reg. 295/2008).

Regarding the issue of long/short term debt, the group recalls what suggested by the EWG 13-05 (STECF report 13-12²³). All debts have to be collected, irrespective if they are due within a year or later. The group points out that the variable “debt” as well the variable “total assets” should refer to the vessel and not to the fishery enterprise. This aspect should be carefully reported in the Guidance Document that could also advise on the fleet segments for which these variables are requested (for instance excluding the artisanal fishery).

The EWG 15-15 suggests changing the variable “interest costs” into “financial results” in order to be consistent with SBS and to take into account the interest income and not only the interest costs.

The EWG further considered the issue of fuel subsidies. In the future, both tax exemption and tax refund should be treated as fuel subsidies. However, they have different implications on the calculation of economic performance. If a tax refund applies, then the fuel costs include the tax, whereas in the case of tax exemption, the fuel costs reflect the costs without tax. For economic performance, net fuel costs should be used. Therefore, MSs should report NET fuel costs in all cases. MSs, as it stands, can report total paid fuel costs including, in some instances, fuel tax before reimbursement. With this new proposed approach the MS, with tax reimbursement, will have to report fuel costs without taxes, i.e. they will have to deduct fuel tax refunds from the gross fuel costs prior to reporting. The EWG also discussed the alternative option of reporting fuel tax refund and fuel tax exemption separately. However, it was concluded that the number of variables should not be further increased unless necessary and that the homogeneous usage of fuel costs without tax in all cases would facilitate the comparison between MS.

5.3.8 Socio-economic data on aquaculture to enable the assessment of the socio-economic performance of the Union aquaculture sector

The EWG 15-15 advises to no longer use the expression “socio-economic”, but treat these fields separately as “social data” and “economic data”.

The EWG discussed the key changes, proposed by the DG MARE and listed in the Commission proposal on the content of the future EU MAP. Which are:

1. ‘Enterprises whose primary activity is defined according to the Eurostat NACE codes 03.21 and 03.22 and who operate for profit’.
2. Operating subsidies
3. Species “tuna”, “eel”, “seaweeds”, “eggs for human consumption”, “crustaceans”, “other molluscs”, “polyculture” and “other aquatic organisms”
4. Aquaculture techniques. For fish farming techniques definition of EUROSTAT (“ponds”, “tanks and raceways”, “enclosures and pens”, “cages”, “recirculation systems”, “other

methods”, “combined”) with the addition of “hatcheries and nurseries” as separate segments. For shellfish techniques (“rafts” and “longline”, “Off-bottom”).

The EWG 15-15 discussed the proposal and agreed that these changes are in line with the results of the “Workshop on Aquaculture Data Collection” held in Gdynia (15-19 June 2015), previous discussions of the STECF EWGs and the JRC report on the “Analysis of socio-economic variables for fisheries, aquaculture and fish processing sectors in support of the revision of the EU Data Collection Framework” and should be implemented in the future EU MAP. Consequently, the modified Appendix XI seems changed in line with these discussions. However, the EWG noted that “cages” are missing from the Appendix XI and should be reported. The minor adjustment suggested by the group is to move seaweeds to the end of the list of species groups.

The EWG also discussed the modification of Appendix X in order to align it with EUROSTAT avoiding duplication of data collection. The EWG did not fully understand the proposal to delete the variable turnover and include ‘Gross transactions’ and where ‘Gross transactions return’ was coming from and would advise DG MARE to consult the report of the Workshop on Aquaculture Data Collection (Gdynia, June 2015) where the possibility to collect data for Eurostat and DCF through the same data collection system and questionnaire allowing for the gradual alignment of the Eurostat and DCF data collection systems was discussed and most MS, collecting data for DCF were present.

It was considered not appropriate to remove the turnover from the variable list in the DCF. The removal of this variable from the EU MAP might lead to a lack of comparability between the costs and some income indicators, which are estimated and based on the results of economic survey and value of production (current turnover). It should be considered that EUROSTAT collects only production by species and average prices for all production units, involved in fish farming, while the EU MAP objective is to concentrate on the economic activity of the enterprises, for which aquaculture is the primary activity. According to the report on the Workshop on Aquaculture Data Collection (Gdynia, June 2015), *‘Most MSs are currently avoiding duplication of data collection. In a minority of MSs, Eurostat and DCF data are collected by two different institutions and contain different information which is available at different periods of the year; therefore it is not feasible to combine data collection into one single questionnaire’*.

The modified Appendix X provided by the Commission for the EWG also did not take into account the proposals made by STECF EWG 13-05 (STECF report 13-12²⁵) and in the JRC report²⁸. Additionally to the proposals made by previous STECF EWGs on the EU MAP, it is also advisable to:

- remove variables ‘extraordinary costs’ and ‘extraordinary income’, as these indicators do not refer to usual activity of the aquaculture enterprise, were not used for analysis and seem not to be useful for the EU MAP purposes. Nevertheless, MS should make sure that extraordinary results are not included under any of the costs/income category.
- further methodology on aggregation level, observation unit and etc. should be provided for social indicators (see section on social indicator)
- Separate subsidies to the separate variable group ‘subsidies’ with two variables: ‘operating subsidies’ and ‘subsidies on investments’²⁶. This proposal is in line with the glossary of the economic terms presented and discussed in PGECON 2013 and FADN statistics on agriculture where subsidies play a crucial role in the sector analysis²⁷.
- It is also advised by the report on the Workshop on Aquaculture Data Collection (Gdynia, June 2015) to change the name of the variable ‘Turnover’ to ‘Gross value of production’ and include

²⁵ [Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries \(STECF\) – Review of DC MAP – Part 2 \(STECF-13-12\). 2013. Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, EUR 26095 EN, JRC 83566, 87 pp.](#)

²⁶ http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rica/infometa_en.cfm?metavar=SE406

²⁷ See also JRC Science and Policy report. Analysis of socio-economic variables for fisheries, aquaculture and fish processing sectors in support of the revision of the EU Data Collection Framework, p.16-27.

additional variables called Livestock weight and value in the end of the year as proposed in JRC report²⁸ and STECF EWG 13-05²⁵ page 17.

The thresholds have also been discussed by the Workshop on Aquaculture Data Collection (Gdynia, June 2015). It was agreed that there is no need to define threshold on the EU level and in case a MS has a problem with data collection, it should be allowed to justify the application of threshold to the Commission. In case production data is available on census basis from the legislation on aquaculture production statistics, the economic data, usually collected through the sampling survey, could be easily raised to cover all the sector.

During discussions on the resolution of data at NUTS3 level (employment and value of production), the EWG 15-15 agreed that weight of production and number of enterprises could be included in the list of variables. The EWG also agreed that NUTS3 level might be too detailed for some countries, therefore NUTS2 could be obligatory and NUTS3 could be an optional aggregation level.

The group was asked to cover environmental indicators (medicines, chemicals and mortalities), however this issue has to be addressed by an appropriate group of experts. It was not clear what the use of these indicators is and how they could help to assess environmental impact of the aquaculture activities as well as if they are really needed on the national level. Extensive information on this issue is provided in the reports from the Workshop on Aquaculture Data Collection (Gdynia, June 2015) and from JRC on aquaculture and ICES Working Group on Aquaculture (WGAQUA).

5.3.9 Socio-economic data on the fish processing sector to enable the assessment of the socio-economic performance of the sector

The EWG 15-15 advises to no longer use the expression “socio-economic”, but treat these fields separately as “social data” and “economic data”.

The EWG considers that in order to assess the economic performance of the fish processing sector there is a need to provide data through the EU MAP, and a for this purpose a list of variables (Appendix XII) should be included. The method of collection should not be specified in the EU MAP and MS should have the possibility of providing the data collected for SBS and complementing them where necessary (for example for small companies). The main differences between DCF and SBS data are reported in the STECF report 13-31²⁹.

Given these differences, the provision of economic data only through the SBS, while removing some duplication in data collection, would pose some limitation to the analysis provided through the current DCF.

To preserve the current level of analysis, the EWG 15-15 considers that additional data collection for the processing industry under the DCF is needed to cover enterprises not included in the SBS population and several variables which are used to assess the economic importance of the processing sector such as investment subsidies and raw materials costs.

If the current level of analysis and coverage is a requirement by end users and the EC, then Appendix XII should be kept with the entire list of variables. In this case, EWG suggests inclusion of variables listed in Appendix XIV of STECF EWG 13-05 with the following changes:

The EWG 15-15 suggests that ‘Extraordinary costs’ and ‘Extraordinary income’ should not be included, as they are not directly related to the processing activity of the enterprise.

²⁸ JRC Science and Policy report. Analysis of socio-economic variables for fisheries, aquaculture and fish processing sectors in support of the revision of the EU Data Collection Framework

²⁹ [Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries \(STECF\) – The Economic Performance Report on the EU Fish Processing sector \(STECF-13-31\). 2013. Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, EUR 26444 EN, JRC 87692, 223 pp.](#)

The EWG suggests removing the variable Subsidies and include Operating subsidies and Subsidies on investment as separate variables. The distinction between types of subsidies would be important for some industries and regions and for the evaluation of EMFF funding.

The other option is to rely on SBS and complement them only for the residual part of the population but this will result in a more superficial analysis.

Besides the existing variable on Raw material costs, the group suggests, to evaluate the inclusion of variables on the origin and species of raw materials which are needed to establish a link to fisheries after a pilot study (“Origin and Sources of Raw Material in the European Seafood Industry“) as suggested in PGECON and endorsed by the Liaison meeting starting from 2012, as well as STECF EWG 13-05 (report STECF 13-12³⁰).

5.3.10 Social variables on the fleet, aquaculture & processing sectors

The EWG 15-15 recalls what was recommended by the STECF EWG 13-05³⁰. In particular, the EWG 13-05 agreed with PGECON that before social data are included in the new EU MAP, a pilot study should be conducted on how data should be collected, which data are already available through common sources and what are the applications/end-user requirements. A reference for this type of study could be the study report “Lot 3 Socio-economic dimensions in EU fisheries”³¹ and related sub-case study reports.

The aggregation level for collecting and providing social indicators could differ from the aggregation level requested for economic data on the fleet, aquaculture & processing sectors. This issue should also be addressed by the pilot study and results should then be included in the Guidance Document.

5.3.11 (Dis-)aggregation levels

The EWG 15-15 discussed the issue of disaggregation levels for the economic data of the fleet and the needs to link the economic and the biological information.

The EU MAP should clearly define the population for the collection of economic variables (the population is all vessels in the EU Fishing Fleet Register on December 31st and any active vessel fishing at least one day during the year, EWG 13-05). In addition, capital value, capital cost, investments and subsidies on investment have to be collected for inactive vessels. This provision should be clearly specified in EU MAP.

In addition, the EU MAP should specify (in the text or as a footnote to the economic appendix) that the basic segmentation to collect and provide economic data is reported in appendix III (fleet segmentation). This provision is justified by the fact that regular data streaming is possible only if we fix the level of aggregation.

Under this scheme, the link of economic data with biological data is possible only if transversal data are made available at an appropriate level of aggregation. In a long-term scenario, transmission of detailed transversal data, adequately treated to overcome the confidentiality issue, will allow to provide economic data at any level of aggregation that will be requested by specific end users’ needs.

³⁰ [Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries \(STECF\) – Review of DC MAP – Part 2 \(STECF-13-12\). 2013. Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, EUR 26095 EN, JRC 83566, 87 pp.](#)

³¹ [Studies for carrying out the Common Fisheries Policy: Lot 3 Socio-economic dimensions in EU fisheries. MARE/2011/07. Final Report, October 2013, 142 pp.](#)

In the short term, a specific data call on transversal data should be regularly launched at European level. A first step in this direction was done in the 2014 economic data call, where transversal data (value, volume and landings and effort) were requested for fleet segment, gear type and sub-region.

5.3.12 Thresholds below which Member States do not need to collect data or carry out research surveys, based on their fishing activities

The issue of threshold in the context of fleet economic data and transversal data was addressed by a DCF workshop held in 2014. A follow-up of this WS was proposed by PGECON and endorsed by 2015 LM.

The objective of threshold application in the context of economic and transversal data is to enable the distinction in the reporting of the data for “normally active vessels” and “low activity vessels”, however data collection should cover the entire population of vessels included in the fleet register. Sub-stratification of fleet segment data should contribute to higher quality of data. A workshop on further development of thresholds application in a regional context has been recommended by PGECON 2015 and should be held in the beginning of 2016. It was also suggested that the application of a threshold should be optional. If a MS applies a threshold for reporting, a rationale should be included in the national work plan.

5.4 Revision of the EU MAP appendices

Apart from commenting on the Commission proposals for the future EU Multi-annual Programme for Data Collection (EU MAP, Annex 1), the EWG 15-15 was asked to revise the Appendices of the current EU MAP (Commission Decision 2010/93/EU).

Appendix I: Regional Fisheries Management Organisations

The EWG 15-15 is of the opinion that the structure of the table and the definitions of the headings of this table are to be inserted into the EU MAP. The description of the levels will be inserted in the Guidance Document (see Fig. 5.1.1).

In linkage with Appendix II, a study suggested by DG MARE to analyse and determine the needs for the Outermost Regions should be started. The outcomes of this study could result in modifications to Appendix I.

To avoid possible confusions, the reference to “Geographic stratification” in the title of the Appendix I should be removed.

Appendix II: Geographical stratification by Region

In the STECF EWG 14-18 (STECF report 15-01³²), a new Appendix II was agreed to be used in the EU MAP and the Guidance Document. The EWG 15-15 is of the opinion that the Appendix II as proposed in the Excel file, is replaced by the Appendix II from STECF EWG 14-18 (STECF report 15-01, p. 37).

³² [Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries \(STECF\) – Review of DCF National programme amendments for 2015 \(the 2013 Annual Report for Bulgaria\) & development of the revised DCF Multiannual Programme \(STECF-15-01\). 2015. Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, EUR27090 EN, JRC 94538, 89 pp.](#)

Linked to Appendix II, DG MARE proposed to implement a study to analyse and determine the needs for the Outermost Regions. Based on the outcome of this study, the content of the table in Appendix I could still change.

The EWG 15-15 is of the opinion that the structure of the table and the definitions of the headings of this table are to be inserted into the EU MAP. The description of the three levels should be inserted in the Guidance Document as some flexibility could be needed in establishing the Supra Region.

Appendix III: Fleet segmentation by Region

In this appendix, the Length classes (LOA) should be based on the Control Regulation (Regulations 1224/2009 and 404/2011) and input from RCGs.

Appendix IV: Fishing activity (metier) by Region

The EWG 15-15 agrees to continue using this Appendix and is of the opinion that the structure of the table and the definitions of the headings of this table, are to be inserted into the EU MAP, as described and agreed by STECF EWG 14-02 (STECF report 14-07³³).

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	LOA classes (m)
Activity (a)	Gear classes (b)	Gear groups(c)	Gear type (d)	Target assemblage(e)	Mesh size and other selective devices (f)	to be decided by the RCGs and PGECON

The further content of the table is to be developed by Region and this shall be done by the different RCGs, as was previously agreed by STECF EWG 14-02 (STECF report 14-07³³).

For the implementation of Level 1-4, there is a need to have an alignment with an existing and formal coding system. The EWG 15-15 is of the opinion that the Control Regulation covers the coding of the Level 1-4, the coding on Level 5 and Level 6 shall be established on regional level and defined by the different RCGs and inserted in the Guidance Document. This Appendix is either for the use of reporting or used in the data collection.

In the proposed Excel table, recreational fisheries is referred to as a metier, however, ‘recreational fisheries’ is not a metier but a separate entity and thus should be handled in a separate list (see comments on Appendix VII below).

Appendix V: Disaggregation levels used for the collection of data

To be deleted.

Appendix VI: List of Economic variables

See section 5.3.7.

³³ [Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries \(STECF\) – DCF Revision - part 4 \(STECF-14-07\). 2014. Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, EUR 26612 EN, JRC 89788, 77 pp.](#)

Appendix VII - List of Biological variables with species sampling specification

The EWG 15-15 is of the opinion that before the Appendix VII with biological variables is established, the proposed “Appendix VII Policy needs” (= Appendix XX - Policy Needs), should be established first.

The EWG 15-15 is of the opinion that the structure of the table and the definitions of the headings of the table with List of Biological Variables, are to be inserted into the EU MAP, as described in and agreed by STECF EWG 14-02 (STECF report 14-07³⁴).

Appendix VII: List of Biological variables with species sampling specification										
(Y= Yearly; T= every three years)			in guidelines							
Species (Engl.)	Species (Latin)	CODE	TAC area or management	Species group(a)	Age no/1000t	Weight	Sex	Maturity	Fecundity	Other

The further content of the table is to be developed by each Region and shall be done by the different RCGs, as was described and agreed by STECF EWG 14-02 (STECF report 14-07³⁴), and will be available in the Guidance Document.

Coding of species should be determined by the RCGs and presented in the Guidance Document. The STECF EWG 15-15 is of the opinion that the coding for the species, should be in alignment with the coding used in the Control Regulation, in order to achieve a standard system over all RCGs.

During the STECF EWG 14-02 (STECF report 14-07³⁴), it was agreed that within the RCGs a basic list of species is established, with the core variables to be collected, and the periodicity (annual, biannual or triennial). These basic lists should be available in the EU MAP. Additional variables should be left to the end-user consultation process, as described in STECF EWG 14-02 (STECF report 14-07³⁴). Unless a RCG agrees on changes, these variables are left on EU level. In the case of RCG decisions on changes, these would override the EU MAP.

Three different basic list shall be compiled by each RCG, i.e. a list for the stocks, a list for recreational fisheries and a list for PETS/Vulnerable species, with the relevant biological variables linked to each species, suiting the needs of the end-users.

The EWG 15-15 is of the opinion that the starting point for the three basic lists are the most up to date version, as established in the RCMs 2015 (list of stocks and recreational fisheries) and for the PETS the outcome of the STECF EWG 13-18 (STECF report 14-02³⁵) and STECF EWG 14-02 (STECF report 14-07³⁴).

Appendix VII + policy needs: = Appendix XX - Policy Need

The EWG 15-15 supports the introduction of such an Appendix, where for all species, the applicable Policy is indicated. The compilation and the maintenance of this new Appendix XX Policy Need is suggested to be undertaken by the EU (DG MARE), in consultation with the end-users, RCGs etc. and shall be available on the website of the Data Collection Regulation. A reference to this list and the link to the website shall be inserted in the EU MAP.

³⁴ [Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries \(STECF\) – DCF Revision - part 4 \(STECF-14-07\). 2014. Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, EUR 26612 EN, JRC 89788, 77 pp.](#)

³⁵ [Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries \(STECF\) – Revision of DCF \(STECF-14-02\). 2014. Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, EUR 26573 EN, JRC89196, 103 pp.](#)

In the proposed table, STECF EWG 15-15 advises to insert three additional columns, for indication which species are relevant for Landing Obligation (LO), *de minimis* rule and PETS/Vulnerable species. Regarding Column C, the EWG 15-15 supports to have the information by individual area.

Species (Engl.)	Species (Latin)	CODE	TAC area or management area	Landing obligation	De Minimis	ICES MoU (b)	TACs & Quotas (c)	MED REG (min. cons. size) (d)	National Management Plan	EU Management Plan	Deep-sea reg. proposal (a)	RFMOs	SFPAs (e)	GFCM stock assessment	Current ICES category	EU Action Plan for Sharks	PETS	International obligations	Other
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The EWG 15-15 proposes the RCG to use this Appendix as the basis for discussion in RCGs, in order to compile the list of species and biological variables to be collected, by Region (Appendix VII).

Appendix VII should consist of three different basic list of species and biological variables to be collected. These three basic list should be compiled by each RCG, i.e. a list for the stocks, a list for recreational fisheries and a list for PETS/Vulnerable species, with the relevant biological variables linked to each species, suiting the needs of the end-users and should be available in the EU MAP.

The EWG 15-15 is of the opinion that input from end-users would be of useful by May 2016 for Appendix VII (for all species, incl. recreational and PETS).

Appendix VIII: List of transversal variables with sampling specification

In the DCF (Regulation), the obligation is present that MS have to collect the variables according to existing Regulations.

The EU MAP refers to the link of the latest Regulation on capacity, catch, value, effort. If any reviews of the used Regulations occur, this overwrites the current list. In the “Guidance Document”, the detailed list should be available.

For the different transversal variables to collect, the following should apply:

- **Capacity:** all MS have fleet register, therefore no additional data collection on capacity need to be applied
- **Catch/ Landings data:**
 - *All vessels > 10m* have to carry a logbook. With the Landing Obligation (LO), it implies that all landings of species, for which the LO is applied, need to be registered. If no logbook is available, sales notes or landing declarations need to be in place. As such, a MS can decide not to apply additional data collection if these are available for all fleet segments.

However, when in evaluating the quality of these data and the quality is not complying with the quality required for the data collection or for scientific purpose, these data can be collected in another way under the Data Collection. This is to be decided within the RCGs.

- ➔ Option 1: to improve data collection on a national level (MS), taking the data collected under the Control Regulation into consideration. If this is not feasible or not achievable, then, option 2 is applicable.
- ➔ Option 2: to implement an alternative procedure to collect these data with the relevant quality.
- *All vessels < 10m:* according to the Control Regulation, each MS need to have a reporting system in place on national level, e.g. sales notes, fishing calendar, sampling schemes etc.. This should form the basis of the collection of the catch data. As such, a

MS can decide not to apply additional data collection, where these reporting systems are in place.

However, when evaluating the quality of these data and the quality is not complying with the quality required for the data collection or for scientific purpose, these data can be collected in another way under the Data Collection. This is to be decided within the RCGs.

- ➔ Option 1: to improve the data collection on a national level (MS), if this is not feasible or not achievable, then, option 2 is applicable.
- ➔ Option 2: to implement an alternative procedure to collect these data with the relevant quality.

Depending on the national situation, a national threshold to collect the variables of the landings by vessels < 10m could be required. The application of the national threshold and the estimation methodology should be decided in the relevant RCG.

The EWG 15-15 is of the opinion that when option 2 need to be applied, the MS should put in to place the methodology, the quality targeted that allow to achieve the required minimum aggregation level according to Appendix 1 (Regional Fisheries Management Organisations - level 4), monthly segmentation. Fleet gear should be decided on the regional level (RCGs), depending on the end-user needs.

- **Effort:** for effort the similar approach as described with catch/landings is applicable. However, for the specific variables to be estimated should be specified in the “Guidance Document”, according to the best practices and harmonized between MS and end-user needs.

Further comments on Appendix VIII are given in section 5.3.5.

Appendix IX - List of research surveys at sea

See section 5.2.7.

Appendix X: List of economic variables for the aquaculture sector

See section 5.3.8.

Appendix XI: Sector segmentation to be applied for the collection of aquaculture data

See section 5.3.8.

Appendix XII: List of economic variables for the processing industry sector

See section 5.3.9.

Appendix XIII: Definition of environmental indicators to measure the effects of fisheries on the marine ecosystem

STECF EWG 15-15 agrees to delete the Appendix XIII.

However, in consultation with the end-users, the RCGs will establish rules and methodologies for the calculation of the ecosystem indicators in the different regions. This information will be inserted in the Guidance Document.

New Appendix: List of social variables for the fleet, processing and aquaculture sector

See section 5.3.10.

Annex 1: Document provided by the European Commission for input on ToR Part III (EU MAP).

Commission proposal for the contents of the future EU MAP

November 2015

Legal provision (in DCF proposal)	Changes proposed compared to the current EU MAP	Questions to the STECF-EWG 15-15
<p><i>i) Biological data on all stocks caught or by-caught by Union commercial and, where appropriate, recreational fisheries in Union and external waters to enable ecosystem based management and conservation as necessary for the operation of the Common Fisheries Policy;</i></p>	<p>Appendix VII (in the excel file “EU MAP Appendices”) needs to be based on end user needs and was therefore updated with policy needs and additional species.</p> <p>Species without policy needs should be considered to be removed. For all species the policy needs must therefore be indicated. After a recommendation made by the Baltic RCM, we decided to remove the Baltic pike from the species list in Appendix VII (currently the only species to be removed).</p> <p>The Commission considers to remove the frequency of data collection column from the table</p>	<p>What data should be collected on a regional basis?</p> <p>What should be the frequency of data collection and how should frequency be determined in the legal text (by RCGs)? Ideally the frequency of data collection should reflect the need for stock assessment. What information can be removed from the text and appear only in the regional work plan? Do all Member States need that detailed level of instructions for their WP?</p> <p>For species without identified policy needs, STECF should verify whether there is a need to collect data for any of those species or advise which of those species can be removed from the amended species list (see spreadsheet “Appendix VII Policy needs”)</p>
<p>-For commercial fishing (in general)</p>	<p>-Review of stocks included (see spreadsheet “modified Appendix VII” in the excel file EU MAP Appendices)</p> <p>-Review of the biological variables for each stock</p> <p>-Inclusion of a new variable for some stocks: stomach content*</p>	<p>1) For all stocks <i>caught or by-caught by Union commercial</i>, agree on what minimum data should be collected by MS (eg catch composition) and whether Control Reg can provide all of this or whether EU MAP should include some data collection requirements too (eg if we want also length composition).</p> <p>2) Identify stocks that are managed or protected at EU or international level and data collection requirements stemming there from (see “Fiche on biological data on commercial fisheries”)</p>

<p>-For recreational fisheries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A new variable on the number of licences or number of licensed fishermen for recreational fisheries is requested. -Current approach of listing métiers for which recreational fisheries data should be collected is not appropriate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – makes more sense by stock (or for whole sector). -Reference to all 'sharks' not clear. -Current species covered (and areas) don't match end-user needs in some cases. - If more biological data on this activity is requested, the survey could be complemented with the turnover and employment of the companies providing services for recreational fisheries. -Move from quarterly to annual catch levels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - STECF to provide input on what recreational fishery data (biological, economic and fisheries activity) are needed to support scientific advice (see ICES document “Recreational fisheries for ICES WG” and “Fiche on recreational fisheries”). -Could a one-off study on survivability of released fish be considered as it may be relevant for stock assessments? -Consider including socio-economic data on recreational fisheries too?
<p>-Specific case of eels & salmon</p>	<p>-Current EU MAP requirements are not appropriate/sufficient for eel and salmon. We need a different approach to the rest of the commercial stocks. The proposed way forward is to identify the policy needs per species in Appendix VII, considering obligations stemming from EU legislation (eg Eel regulation) (see spreadsheet “Appendix VII Policy needs” and the “Fiche on eels and salmon”)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Consult the ICES workshop on eel and salmon (WKESDCF) regarding specifically what data collection needs exist. http://ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Expert%20Group%20Report/acom/2012/WKESDCF/WKESDCF%20report%202012.pdf - STECF EWG12-15 REVIEW OF PROPOSED DCF 2014-2020 PART 2 http://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/43805/435014/2013-01_STECF+13-01+-+Review+of+proposed+DCF+2014-2020_JRC79209.pdf -STECF EWG13-06 Review of DC MAP Part I http://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/43805/506417/2013-04_STECF+13-06+-+DC-MAP+review+part+1_JRC81593.pdf Note existence of the Joint EIFAAC/ICES/GFCM Working Group on Eels (WGEEL): http://ices.dk/community/groups/Pages/WGEEL.aspx

-Specific case of long-distance fisheries (external waters)	<p>-Solve the issue of non-submitted data on segments in the external fleet with few vessels.</p> <p>Option 1, transmit and process data in a secure frame to solve issue of confidentiality.</p> <p>Option 2, clustering of homogenous fleets</p> <p>-Ensure all obligations relating to MS data collection in external waters are covered by EU MAP.</p>	<p>STECF to suggest a way to incorporate the proposed changes. (STECF EWG14-18 identified gaps in EU MAP compared to MS' obligations under RFMOs.</p> <p>http://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/43805/891967/2015-01_STECF+15-01+Review+DCF+NP+and+multiann+programs_JRC94538.pdf (section 5.1))</p>
-Specific case of Outermost regions :	<p><u>Useful reference material:</u></p> <p>“Fiche on data collection in outermost regions “</p> <p>STECF report (section 6.2): http://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=ec03be8a-8a74-4fc8-b4b8-65eaf384e21e&groupId=43805</p>	<p>STECF to identify stocks to be included in EU MAP (see STECF report below which lists important stocks and those that are assessed and/or managed). Identify gaps in current NPs compared to current EU MAP and reasons for this.</p>
-Specific case of deep-sea Regulation :	<p>Include deep-sea species in the EU MAP list of stocks to be sampled.</p> <p>-The deep-sea Regulation proposal contains a list of species for which data must be collected (mix of commercial & protected/vulnerable by-catch species). These should be included in the list of stocks of the EU MAP.</p>	<p>Cross check which species from Deep Sea proposal are in current EU MAP and which need to be added.</p>
<i>ii) Transversal variables (Appendix VIII)</i>	<p>Consider simplifications in structure: (e.g. no more column 'specification')</p>	<p>STECF to consider some changes in content based on end user needs for specific variables and broader consultations.</p> <p>Alternative: Is it needed or could we not refer to the Control regulation instead?</p>

<p>ii) Ecosystem data to assess the impact of Union fisheries on the marine ecosystem in Union and external waters,</p>	<p>-Deep sea Reg proposal also requires sampling of <i>species belonging to the seabed ecosystem such as deep-water corals, sponges or other organisms belonging to the same ecosystem</i> - > these should be covered under the issue on by-catch species</p> <p>Reference material: -ICES Workshop on DCF indicators 2013: http://pure.ilvo.vlaanderen.be/portal/files/2130662/WKIND_2013_1.pdf (includes advice on end-user needs regarding level of (dis-)aggregation).</p> <p>-Special request by DG ENV to ICES for scientific advice on data collection issues (June 2013: http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2013/Special%20requests/EU_%20data_%20collection_issues.pdf & Nov 2013): ..\Reference material\Environment (includes input on three topics below).</p>	<p>Cross check which species from Deep Sea proposal are in current EU MAP and which need to be added.</p>
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<p><i>including data on by-catch of non-target species, in particular species protected under international or Union law,</i></p>	<p>-List in EU MAP should include species belonging to the seabed ecosystem such as deep-water corals, sponges or other organisms belonging to the same ecosystem (based on Deep Sea Reg proposal)(see “fiche on by-catch of non-target species”).</p> <p>-Commission is about launch a study on mitigating measures to minimise seabird bycatch in gillnet fisheries in the Baltic, North Sea & Western Waters. Contract to be signed around Nov 2015 and assessment of present knowledge on incidental bird bycatches (incl. gaps in data) to be provided to COM within 3 months (ie around Feb-March 2016)</p> <p>-RCG grants 2015 to implement some of the ICES recommendations regarding bycatch sampling (to fill existing gaps).</p> <p>-Coverage of fisheries under the DCF is biased away from those fisheries carrying the greatest risk of catching many protected and sensitive species. Development of remote electronic video recording seems likely to be a cost-effective way of assessing by-catch in the future as it can be applied to all parts of the fishing fleet (metiers and/or fleet segments) as defined in DC-MAP.</p>	<p>How should the future EU MAP incorporate incidental by-catch of birds, reptiles and mammals?</p>
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<p><i>data on impacts of fisheries on marine habitats</i></p>	<p>Key data was already covered by DCF (VMS & gear info) but this could be expanded.</p> <p>-Bear in mind Deep sea Reg proposal also requires sampling of <i>species belonging to the seabed ecosystem such as deep-water corals, sponges or other organisms belonging to the same ecosystem.</i></p> <p>-ICES advice in special request from DG ENV of June 2013 (see link above) concludes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - species indicative of seabed habitat type caught in surveys, and by commercial vessels with on-board observers, be recorded. (As observers are already on some of these vessels, benthic data collection will be relatively cost-effective). - fishing positions of all vessels, including those less than 12 m (ie not currently obliged to have VMS under EU Reg) and in Med VMS data missing for vessels under 15m, be recorded and reported at 30-minute intervals. <p>-ICES advice Nov 2013 even more specific on data needs: Assessing the surface and sub-surface disturbance by bottom contact gears for the proposed MSFD indicators (of HELCOM and OSPAR) requires data on the extent of physical damage and loss of seabed habitats resulting from human activities. Fishing activity information therefore needs to be provided on the spatial distribution of fishing, including: location (maximum 30-minute position updates, preferably shorter), gear type (Levels 4 and 5), gear width, vessel speed, and whether fishing is occurring or not. Effort should be recorded in appropriate units (e.g. hours towed, km of net × soak time, number of hooks set).</p>	<p>How should the future EU MAP the impact on marine habitats?</p>
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<p><i>and data on impacts of fisheries on food webs;</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - stomach content data (This is dealt with under i) above). Could also include data on "forage fish" (i.e. food for predators). -RCG grants 2015 to include as a task: identify forage fish that account for >5% of the total fish biomass, or that are important in the diet of dependent species (especially when these are protected species). These assessments should take account of the distribution and availability of the forage species to dependent predators? ICES advice in special request from DG ENV of June 2013 concludes that: - Stock assessments of all forage fish species (eg sprats and sand eels to the W of the UK) that account for >5% of the total fish biomass, or that are important in the diet of dependent species (especially when these are protected species), are required. These assessments should take account of the distribution and availability of the forage species to dependent predators. 	<p>How should the future EU MAP incorporate on food webs?</p>
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<p>iii) Data on the activity of Union vessels in Union and external waters, including level of fishing and of effort and capacity of the Union fleet;</p>	<p>Remove duplication: The DCF will only create data collection obligations insofar as they are not already covered by other EU legislation.</p> <p>-VMS data for vessels under 12m (and under 15m in Med.), and to be reported at 30min intervals?</p> <p>-Consider specific case of small-scale fleet (vessels not covered by logbook or VMS obligation).</p> <p>-ICES recommends that fishing positions of all vessels, including those less than 12 m (ie not currently obliged to have VMS under EU Reg) and in Med VMS data missing for vessels under 15m, be recorded and reported at 30-minute intervals to improve data on fisheries impacts on seabed.</p> <p>(see “fiche on Control regulation data” and STECF EWG13-05 (June 2013): Appendix III: List of raw data on fisheries dependent information that shall be made available for DCF purpose.</p>	<p>Solve the issue of non-submitted data on segments in the external fleet with few vessels.</p> <p>Option 1, transmit and process data in a secure frame to solve issue of confidentiality.</p> <p>Option 2, clustering of homogenous fleets</p>
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<p><i>iv) Socio-economic data on fisheries to enable the assessment of the socio-economic performance of the Union fisheries sector;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fuel subsidies • Investment subsidies • Long/short term debt 	<p>Remove duplication: The DCF will only create data collection obligations insofar as they are not already covered by other EU legislation.</p> <p>Not much change on economic variables.</p> <p>Additional social variables will be included to be collected every 3 years:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gender 2. Employment nationality: national, EU, non-EU 3. Average age of fishermen 4. Education level 5. Average age of retirement <p>See "Fiche on additional definitions on economic terms"</p> <p>"JRC Report on DCF Economics "</p> <p>STECF EWG13-05 (June 2013) (see Annex – Appendix XI " List of Economic variables for the fleet" which presents proposed changes to current list of fleet economic variables in EU MAP</p>	<p>Are current requirements regarding the small scale fleet adapted to our needs? Consider specific situation of small-scale fisheries (see proposed change).</p>
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<p>v) Socio-economic data on aquaculture to enable the assessment of the socio-economic performance of the Union aquaculture sector,</p> <p>Key changes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Enterprises whose primary activity is defined according to the Eurostat NACE codes 03.21 and 03.22 and who operate for profit'. • Freshwater data (surveys or other statistically validated methods covering at least 90% of the total production by volume). • Operating subsidies • Species "tuna", "eel", "seaweeds", "eggs for human consumption", "crustaceans", "other molluscs", "polyculture" and "other aquatic organisms" • Aquaculture techniques For fish farming techniques definition of EUROSTAT ("ponds", "tanks and raceways", "enclosures and pens", "cages", "recirculation systems", "other methods", "combined") with the addition of "hatcheries and nurseries" as separate segments. For shellfish techniques ("rafts" and "longline", "Off-bottom"), Polyculture"(multiple activities). 	<p>-Remove duplication: The DCF will only create data collection obligations insofar as they are not already covered by other EU legislation.</p> <p>-Requires political agreement with ESTAT on details – likely outcome: production & value data to be collected under ESTAT legislation (DCF will collect gross sales that include fry and fingerlings). Additional economic parameters to be collected under DCF (Annex in EU-MAP) – but ensure a single data collection process takes place in each MS the ESTAT & DCF frameworks use same building blocks/are compatible. Also need to clarify flow of data from MS to ESTAT & DCF (link to future DCF data availability system).</p> <p>-Modification of "Appendix X" and "Appendix XI" for alignment with ESTAT and to avoid duplication with them</p> <p>Data collection every 3 years as mandatory data or, at least pilot, studies:</p> <p>Environmental indicators (medicines, chemicals and mortalities)</p> <p>Disaggregated data at NUTS3 level (employment and value of production)</p> <p>See: "Fiche on aquaculture data" and JRC report "JRC assessment of environmental performance of aquaculture"</p>	<p>STECF to review the proposed changes or provide alternatives</p> <p>What should the thresholds and data to be collected on a voluntary basis be?</p>
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<p>-Environmental performance of aquaculture</p>	<p>Data recorded by producers on mortalities and medicines used according to EU rules. DC-MAP will provide a vehicle for MS to transmit these data and contribute to an EU-wide time series.</p> <p>Useful material:</p> <p>JRC report (2012) on <i>An Approach Towards European Aquaculture Performance Indicators: Indicators for Sustainable Aquaculture in the European Union</i>.</p>	<p>STECF to provide expert opinion</p>
<p><i>vi) Socio-economic data on the fish processing sector to enable the assessment of the socio-economic performance of the sector.</i></p>	<p>- Remove duplication: The DCF will only create data collection obligations insofar as they are not already covered by other EU legislation.</p> <p>-In fact the DCF will discontinue the collection of processing data</p> <p>Therefore: Remove variables from DCF that are covered by ESTAT SBS legislation.</p> <p>-Align populations (or develop a single collection exercise).</p> <p>Complement with data non covered by SBS (small enterprises with less than 10-20 employees)</p> <p>-Main difference between ESTAT & DCF relate to the population covered and definitions.</p>	<p>STECF to provide expert opinion</p> <p>-Do we need data on origin of raw material? (Experts have recommended a study on cost-benefit of this as very costly to collect). Wouldn't more social variables be useful to support policy decisions especially regarding financing of this activity?</p>

<p>Social variables on the fleet, aquaculture & processing sectors</p>	<p>Do we include more social variables? Eg employment <i>by gender</i> not currently collected for the fleet (only for aqua & processing) – wouldn't this be useful?</p> <p>-frequency of collection of such data?</p> <p>Com proposal to be collected every 3 years for the fishing fleet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Gender 7. Employment nationality: national, EU, non-EU 8. Average age of fishermen 9. Education level 10. Average age of retirement <p>To be collected every 3 years for the aquaculture and fish processing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regional distribution of Employment and turnover (NUTs III) 2. Employment nationality: national, EU, non-EU 3. Average age of fishermen 4. Education level 	<p>STECF to review proposed changes</p>
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<p><i>b) A list of mandatory research surveys based on the following principles:</i></p> <p><i>(1) adequacy for the information needs of management of the Common Fisheries Policy;</i></p> <p><i>(2) needs according to internationally agreed coordination and harmonisation;</i></p> <p><i>(3) needs based on the evaluation of management plans, including the monitoring of ecosystem variables;</i></p> <p><i>(4) needs to obtain sufficient coverage of stock area;</i></p> <p><i>(5) avoidance of duplication between surveys; and</i></p> <p><i>(6) avoidance of disrupting the history of survey data.</i></p>	<p>-Change contents of list of mandatory surveys slightly (see "modified Appendix IX".</p> <p>-Include rules on task sharing between MS for these surveys & on thresholds</p> <p>- RCMs in Aug-Sept provided lists of potential surveys for their region and apply criteria/weighting to them.</p> <p>-STECF to comment/approve/compare regional lists</p> <p>-STECF EWG 12-01 evaluated the review process of the research vessel surveys prior to the implementation of DC-MAP, including a proposal for adaptation of criteria [no longer relevant as included in Recast proposal], scoring rules and weighting for evaluation, ideas on survey evaluation after the implementation of DC-MAP.</p> <p>See "Fiche on research surveys "and STECF EWG10-03 was dedicated to DCF research surveys.</p>	<p>STECF to include rules on task sharing between MS for these surveys & on thresholds. Can the variables "Survey effort" and "Days (Maximum)" be deleted?</p>
<p><i>Rules on participation by different Member States in surveys shall be based upon the relative share in stock exploitation by the concerned Member States.</i></p>		

<p><i>c) Thresholds below which Member States do not need to collect data or carry out research surveys, based on their fishing activities.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Thresholds to be included more systematically and clearly. -This issue should be considered under each of the above thematic points. -Compare with what is done in this area by ESTAT (eg under statistical Aquaculture Reg, 3 LLC have derogations to either not provide data or provide estimates instead). 	<p>A workshop on thresholds has been recommended by PGECON. Follow development of ToR for this.</p>
<p>-(Dis-)aggregation levels</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Should continue to be specified in EU MAP but levels of (dis-)aggregation may change to ensure end-user needs can be met. - A minimum level of disaggregation on transversal variables should be specified to allow the link between economic data (segment) and biological data (metier) in particular for impact assessments and evaluation of management plans. -Ensure biological & socio-economic data can be aggregated in a meaningful way to allow analysis of eg impacts of policy measures at local level. -There are differences in the aggregation levels requested by data calls, for instance monthly strata with respect to ICCAT and quarterly segments with respect to the DCF See " Fiche on bio-economic modelling" 	<p>STECF to provide expert opinion</p>

<p>-Methodology</p>	<p>-Most of the detailed requirements on methods will be removed from EU MAP and left to regional groups (or EU expert group)</p> <p>-Continue to require concurrent sampling?</p> <p>-Refer to statistically sound sampling?</p> <p>- Or leave all this up to MS?</p> <p>-The grants for regional & EU cooperation on data collection (to be launched end 2015) should help provide compilations of best practice methods or develop missing methods.</p> <p>- We need to determine whether it is safe to move completely from metier based sampling to statistically sound sampling.</p> <p>Therefore as an exercise we would like STECF to use existing data collected under a metier-based sampling and carry out data analysis using the statistically sound sampling scheme and then revert back to existing metiers using CVs. This will allow for an explicit comparison between both sampling methods. Are the resulting data appropriate to use for bio-economic analysis. E.g. can the profitability of each metier be established if we change the sampling method?</p> <p>Useful information:</p> <p>“Fiche on statistically-sound sampling “</p> <p>The workshop (WKISCON2) was chaired by Liz Clarke and Nuno Prista and held in Sukarrieta, Spain, on 16–19 June 2015</p> <p>-WKPICS reports: http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Expert%20Group%20Report/acom/2011/WKPICS/WKPICS%20report%202011.pdf http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Expert%20Group%20Report/acom/2012/WKPICS2/WKPICS2%20final%20report%20feb%20update.pdf</p>	<p>STECF to provide expert opinion</p>
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6 CONTACT DETAILS OF STECF MEMBERS AND EWG-15-15 LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

1 - Information on STECF members and invited experts' affiliations is displayed for information only. In some instances the details given below for STECF members may differ from that provided in Commission COMMISSION DECISION of 27 October 2010 on the appointment of members of the STECF (2010/C 292/04) as some members' employment details may have changed or have been subject to organisational changes in their main place of employment. In any case, as outlined in Article 13 of the Commission Decision (2005/629/EU and 2010/74/EU) on STECF, Members of the STECF, invited experts, and JRC experts shall act independently of Member States or stakeholders. In the context of the STECF work, the committee members and other experts do not represent the institutions/bodies they are affiliated to in their daily jobs. STECF members and invited experts make declarations of commitment (yearly for STECF members) to act independently in the public interest of the European Union. STECF members and experts also declare at each meeting of the STECF and of its Expert Working Groups any specific interest which might be considered prejudicial to their independence in relation to specific items on the agenda. These declarations are displayed on the public meeting's website if experts explicitly authorized the JRC to do so in accordance with EU legislation on the protection of personnel data. For more information: <http://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/adm-declarations>

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7 LIST OF ANNEXES

Electronic annexes are published on the meeting's web site on:
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List of electronic annexes documents:

1. EWG-15-15 – Annex 1 – Guidelines for Annual Reports, version Nov. 2015 (Word file)
2. EWG-15-15 – Annex 2 – Standard Tables for Annual Reports, version Nov. 2015 (Excel file)
3. EWG-15-15 – Annex 3 – Guidelines for the evaluation of Annual Reports and Data Transmission (Word file)
4. EWG-15-15 – Annex 4 – Evaluation form for Annual Reports (Excel file)
5. EWG-15-15 – Annex 5 – Modified EU MAP Appendices (Excel file)

8 LIST OF BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background documents are published on the meeting's web site on:
<https://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/ewg1515>

List of background documents:

6. EWG-15-15 – Doc 1 - Declarations of invited and JRC experts (see also section 6 of this report – List of participants)
7. EWG-15-15 – Doc 2 – The DCF Reporting and Implementation Cycles and the Data End-user Feedback. Cristina Castro Ribeiro (JRC Technical Report)
8. EWG-15-15 – Doc 3 – Ad hoc contract to improve the link between Annual Reports and Data Transmission failures (biological data)
9. EWG-15-15 – Doc 4 – Draft version of the report on linking ARs to DT failures and examples to illustrate linkage to be reviewed by STECF EWG 15-15 (economic and transversal data)
10. Analysis of national aquaculture data collections FINAL rev March 2015 (.docx)
11. Fiche on biological data on commercial fisheries (.doc)
12. Fiche on by-catch non-fisheries species (.doc)
13. Fiche on additional definitions on economic terms (.doc)
14. Fiche on aquaculture data (.doc)
15. Fiche on bio-economic modelling (.doc)
16. Fiche on control regulation data (.docx)
17. Fiche on data collection in outermost regions (.doc)
18. Fiche on eel and salmon (.doc)
19. fiche on recreational fisheries (.doc)
20. Fiche on research surveys (.doc)
21. Fiche on sound sampling (.docx)
22. ICES feedback survey list NA stocks (.xlsx)
23. JRC assessment of environmental performance of aquaculture (.pdf)
24. JRC Report on DCF Economics (.pdf)
25. Recreational fisheries for ICES WG (.doc)

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STECF

The Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) has been established by the European Commission. The STECF is being consulted at regular intervals on matters pertaining to the conservation and management of living aquatic resources, including biological, economic, environmental, social and technical considerations.

JRC Mission

As the Commission's in-house science service, the Joint Research Centre's mission is to provide EU policies with independent, evidence-based scientific and technical support throughout the whole policy cycle.

Working in close cooperation with policy Directorates-General, the JRC addresses key societal challenges while stimulating innovation through developing new methods, tools and standards, and sharing its know-how with the Member States, the scientific community and international partners.

Serving society

Stimulating innovation

Supporting legislation

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